

[|| District Map ||](#) [|| District Block-demarcated Map ||](#) [|| Location in West Bengal ||](#)

[view in separate window](#)

[| District Profile](#)

[Data-Library](#)

[| NIC \(CoB\) Home | CoB](#)

[| More Links at Bottom |](#)

[|| Govt. Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Important Public Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Latest News-n-Activities ||](#)

## Royal History : Book of Facts and Events

### Ancient Beliefs :~

(p1) Once upon a time the North-eastern Frontier of India was known as **Pragjyotishpur** which later came to be known as **Kamrup**. Ancient Kamrup was divided into four parts namely Kampith, Ratnapith, Subarnapith and Soumarpith. On the northern bank of river Sarnakosh (Sankosh) in Pragjyotishpur and near the Nilanchal Mountains, the land of Ratnapith was ruled by Narak.

According to ancient beliefs Mahiranga Danab was the ancient King of Kamrup. After successive kingship of his three descendants namely Hatakasur, Sambarasur and Ratnasur, Kamrup came under the grip of the Kirats. With the help of Lord Krishna, king Narak killed Ghatak, the king of Kirat, and restored the throne of Kamrup. Later when Narak turned out to be treacherous, Sri Krishna destroyed him and enthroned his son Bhagdutta. Bhagdutta partied with the Kauravas in the Kurushetra battle and died at Arjun's hand. After Bhagdutta next 23 kings of his dynasty ruled successively. Of them Pralambha, Banamala and Bhaskerburma were famous.

Bhaskerburma ruled during the early seventh century. His kingdom was extended up to river Kartoya in the west. [next](#)

(p3) wife/begum to meet the Queen, Hossain Shah sent some of his soldiers in the disguise of women-folk to the fort of Kamtapur and seized the fort. King Nilambar was defeated and imprisoned. After attaining victory over Kamrup, he enthroned his son and returned back to Gour.

It was then the start of **Mathsyanyan Period**. At that time each **Bhuiyan** or **Bhowmick** used to rule over one/two or more villages.

### Koch Royal Dynasty :~

Among these Bhuiyans one named **Hajo** turned out to be benevolent. He had two daughters named Jira and Hira. On the other side there was a small territory at Chikna Mountains situated between Sankosh/Saraldanga river and Champabati river about 50 miles north of Dhubri in present Goalapara district of Assam. This territory was ruled by **Hadiya** or **Haridas Mondal**. He belonged to Haihoi dynasty belonging to Mech caste. To establish unity with Chikna, Hajo wedded off his daughters to Haridas. In due time Jira gave birth to Madan & Chandan while Hira gave birth to Sishu (Sisya Singha) & Bishu (Viswa Singha). Among the four, Bishu was the bravest, cleverest and toughest. Gradually these four brothers

### CHAPTER - 1 of 6

(p2) Bhaskerburma was a great benevolent king. During his time Chinese pilgrimage Hieun Tsang visited Bharatbarsh. King Harshabardhan of Kanauj joined hands with Bhaskerburman to defeat Shasanka, the king of Gour, and jointly waged war against Shasanka (619 A.D). But they failed to defeat Shasanka. From this time onward marked the historic period of Kamrup. After Bhaskerburma his kingdom got divided into numerous small parts.

After Narak's descendants, Kamrup was ruled by the Sudra and Pal dynasty. During the end of Pal dynasty one of the Khen dynasty snatched the portion of Ratnapith from the Pal king. His name was Kanteswar and enthroned with the alias name of Niladhaj. After him his son Chakradhaj and then his grandson Nilambar ruled the kingdom. Nilambar was a benevolent ruler of the Khen dynasty. Kings of the Khen dynasty detached the **Ratnapith** region from Kamrup and established the Kamta kingdom. "Kamda" or "Gosani Debi" was their family deity. Capital of this kingdom was known as Kamtapur. During the reign of Maharaja Nilambar, in 1498, Hossain Shah, the independent Pathan Sultan of Gour, attacked Kamta. After attaining the king's permission to let the Sultan's [next \(p3\)](#)

(p4) Terror spread in occupying neighboring lands. On the run strife occurred with the Turukh Kotwal of that region.

It is believed that the four brothers were charged for sacrificing one of their friends to the altar of Goddess Bhagwati. Fearing arrest they took shelter in the forest.

They collected soldiers, elephants & horses and pounded upon the Turukh Kotwal. Kotwal appeared with a big army. Sisya Singha & Viswa Singha killed many. But Madan lost

his life in this battle. Being grieved, Viswa Singha along with Sisya Singha attacked severely. Viswa Singha caught the Kotwal's horse and killed the Kotwal with his sword. Many Turukh soldiers were killed and the rest fled. Turning victorious, Viswa Singha enthroned Chandan, the younger brother of Madan, consoling Queen Jira who was hurt having lost her eldest son in the battle.

**Maharaja Chandan** [Rajshak 1-14 || 1510-1523 A.D.] :

It was the beginning of Rajshak (royal calendar year) in 1510 A.D. or 917 of the Bengali calendar when Maharaja Chandan was enthroned. In fact Chandan was the foremost of the "Koch" kings, Viswa

mastered the art of war and started attacking & winning over the villages surrounding Chikna. [next \(p4\)](#)

### **Maharaja Viswa Singha** [Rajshak 14-45 || 1523-1554 A.D.] : **2nd Maharaja**

**(p5)** Viswa Singha was crowned next in absence of any son of Maharaja Chandan. His brother Sisya Singha held the royal umbrella atop the crown. Sisya Singha was entitled as "Raikat" or 'family guardian' and over his next generations acquired the Prime Ministerial post. As for his residence he was given the land of Baikunthapur (under present Jalpaiguri district of west Bengal). The Raikat kings of Jalpaiguri were his descendants.

Apart from being a grand king Maharaja Viswa Singha was also a good administrator as well. He invaded Soumarpith, Bijni, Bidiyagram and Bijaypur and turned out victorious. Next he attacked Bhutan where on facing defeat came to terms with the king of Bhutan. After that he attacked Gour. Hossain Shah was then ruling Gour and Sikander Lodhi (1489-1517 A.D.) was the Sultan of Delhi. Viswa Singha won over major portions of Gour. His grandeur was further supported by his three brave sons. On his mother's request he shifted his capital from Chikna mountains to Hingulabas in the plains. This is evident from 'Hingulacoat' to the north of Mahakalguri village within Alipurduar of today. Viswa Singha was a great benevolent king. During his reign Muslim invaders attacked Kamrup many times but after facing defeat they were forced to retreat. In 1532 A.D. Turukh Khan was defeated while attacking Assam. [next \(p6\)](#)

**(p7)** At that time he discovered the pious land of Kamakkha Temple. He worshipped there and fulfilled his aspirations. He built temple of Goddess Kamakkha over there and appointed Brahmins from Kanauj in the worship services. He sent for more Brahmins (priests) from Kanauj and arranged for their residence within his kingdom permanently.

Maharaja Viswa Singha was lenient towards education. For educating his sons he sent Nara Narayan & Sukladhaj to Varanasi. [next \(p8\)](#)

### **Maharaja Nara Narayan** [Rajshak 45-78 || 1554-1587 A.D.] : **3rd Maharaja**

**(p9)**

After Viswa Singha, arrangements were going on for the crowning of his eldest son, Nri Singha, as the next king. Many Brahmin intellectuals had gathered at the capital on that occasion and as per custom all the proceedings of the swearing in started. Nri Singha along with Nara Narayan & Shukladhaj were present at the gathering. At that moment Nara Narayan's wife arrived and addressed to Nri Singha that at the time of her wedding he had blessed her as the future Queen of the empire and that he himself was then swearing in to falsify his blessing. On hearing her aspiration, Nri Singha assured her that she would be the Queen and asked upon Nara Narayan to accept the Behar throne. Next day it was the swearing in of Nara Narayan as the new Maharaja.

Singha was the main initiator of the "Koch" royal dynasty. Disorder prevailed in Kampith or Kamtapur after Hossain Shah devastated the land defeating king Kamteswar. Along with Kamtapur, Maharaja Chandan invaded small surrounding territories and brought those lands under his rule. He passed away in 1523 A.D. after having reigned for 13 years. [next \(p5\)](#)

**(p6)** At that time Nasrat Shah, king of Gour attacked Viswa Singha's kingdom but had to flee after having lost in the battle. In fact Maharaja Viswa Singha strongly consolidated the base of the newly established Behar kingdom/empire.

At the age of 53 in 1554 A.D. he set out for the Himalayas to lead the rest of his life as saint after crowning his second son - Nara Narayan.

Maharaja Viswa Singha had 19 Queens and likewise had 19 sons. Of them four were notable ones - the eldest was Nri Singha or Nara Singha (who was intellectual & religious); second son was Nara Narayan (also known as 'Malla Narayan' since he was a great warrior and mallabir or wrestler); third son was Chilarai (also known as Shukladhaj due to his fair complexion) and his fourth son Kamal Narayan or Gosai Kamal. These four brothers mastered the art of war so well and helped to sustain the grandeur of Behar empire.

**Kamakkha Temple** : Once Maharaja Viswa Singha was resting with his army near Guwahati within his kingdom. At a nighttime expedition he got detached from his army and went off far to reach Nilanchal mountains. [next \(p7\)](#)

**(p8)** Over there they learnt Sanskrit grammar, literature, astrology, law, *Smriti* & *Puran* and gathered knowledge in those subjects.

Maharaja Viswa Singha was the worshiper of *Shiva* and *Durga*. He attained *Dikkha* (religious enlightenment) near a Brahmin named Kalichandra Bhattacharya. At the last stage of his life he was engaged in divine contemplation. Having taught the principles of administration and other ethics & values, he retired after handing over the kingdom to the hands of his sons. [next \(p9\)](#)

**(p10)** among local fellowmen and attacked Gour. Shukladhaj was appointed as the commander of that invasion and was also joined by Sisya Singha Raikat. In Sisya Singha's army there were Rajput and Pathan soldiers. Debraj, king of Bhutan, also joined the attacking alliance with many soldiers. That vast army got divided into groups and attacked Gour. Gourpasha was defeated and the kingdom of Gour got divided between Nara Narayan and Akbar. In this battle Shukladhaj captured the entire region of Gour till the banks of the Ganga. He also captured Ghoraghat.

Again in 1562 A.D. crossing river Brahmaputra, Nara Narayan attacked Assam then ruled by Sukhangrafar. Under the command of Shukladhaj there was fierce battle both on land & waterways near Guwahati. Nara Narayan captured Guwahati, Nilachal mountains, Darang, Beltali and other regions. Facing defeat army of the Assam king fled and according to a truce with

After being enthroned Nara Narayan appointed Shukladhaj as the army commander and let Nri Singha to reside at present Panga Pargana of Rangpur district. There Nri Singha led life in divine contemplation. After a few days Sisya Singha Raikat retired and left for Baikunthapur to live the rest of his life. A Brahmin was appointed as new Najir (summoner).

Gourpasha was the king of Gour when **Akbar** (Mughal emperor) intended to invade Gour. Akbar asked for help from Nara Narayan. He organised army from [next \(p10\)](#)

**(p11)** Later Maharaja Nara Narayan captured Kachhar, Manipur, Jayantia, Srihatta, Khairam, Dimuria and Tripura. In this way he brought a large kingdom under his rule. His empire extended up to Brahmadesh border in the east, Trihut (Mithila) border in the west, Tibet border in the north, and including Ghoraghat & north-eastern regions of Moimansingh district near Chattogram up to the Bay of Bengal in the south. Peace & order prevailed during his rule.

A Bhuiya named Pratap Roy of Pandu took shelter in Assam with his family after Shetdhan, his brother, faced defeat and was killed by Maharaja Viswa Singha. Maharaja Nara Narayan married Bhanumati, daughter of Pratap Roy and wedded off Chandraprabha, neice of Pratap Roy, with Sukladhaj.

His Majesty Maharaja Nara Narayan issued currency in his name. Both gold and silver coins bore the inscription of "Mahadev" (written in Devnagari script ) on one side and "Sri Sri Maharaj Nara Narayan" on the other side. He also created state seal bearing lion-symbol. This seal was used in every notices/mandates & every royal letters.

Maharaja Nara Narayan built many broad roadways. Of them 'Gohain Kamal Ali' was the most notable. [next \(p12\)](#)

**(p13)** Maharaja Nara Narayan was affectionate towards education. From his childhood he studied Sanskrit and attained special knowledge in Sanskrit *Sastras*. He was

also addressed as 'Vikramaditya' of Kamrup. His royal court consisted of many intellectuals. Notable scholar Purusottam Bhattacharya composed the famous Sanskrit grammar 'Proyog Ratnamala'. Translation of Ramayan, Mahabharat & poetry of eighteenth Puran was done by scholars Anirudha and Ram Swaraswati. Pandit Ananta Kondoli wrote many books. Under the patronage of Maharaja Nara Narayan famous Baisnava preacher Shankaracharya composed 'Sita Swayambar' play and translated poetries of Krishna Gunabali & Sri Mod Bhagwath. 30 volumes composed by Shankardev have been discovered. Of them name of Nara Narayan has been specified in many.

### A little about Shukladhaj or Chilarai

Shukladhaj was the younger brother and army commander of Maharaja Nara Narayan. He played the major role in extending the royal kingdom. It was the valor of Shukladhaj that helped Nara Narayan to rule such a vast empire. A remarkable commander and an unusually brave warrior, he could swiftly capture his enemies. In a battle against the king of Assam, Shukladhaj on his horse back jumped like

Maharaja Nara Narayan, king Sukhangrafar kept the northern part of Soumar under his occupancy but not allowed royalty over there.

There were reports of increase in Muslim empowerment at Gour and invasions from the west side of Behar kingdom. Soleman Karnani was then the king of Gour. Maharaja Nara Narayan attacked Gour in 1568 A.D. But Karnani's army commander Kalapahar defeated the Behar commander Shukladhaj and occupied lands till Tejpur. [next \(p11\)](#)

**(p12)** Maharaja Nara Narayan was religious. He brought Brahmins from different places including Mithila and gifted them lands/assets ('Brahmattar' belongings) and arranged for their stay permanently in his kingdom. After attaining victory over Gour with the help of Akbar, Maharaja Nara Narayan gave lands as grants to Brahmins in written orders bearing his royal lion-symbol stamp. A few of those grant orders are still present.

Again Maharaja Nara Narayan had to restore the Kamakkha Temple after been ruined by Kalapahar, army commander of the then king of Gour. He also built temple for 'Hoygrib Madhav' and many more. He granted lands for the construction of temple campus and appointed Brahmins from Mithila & Gour in temple services. The door to Kamakkha Temple still bears the twin statues of Nara Narayan & Shukladhaj and inscribed evidence of the fact.

Maharaja Nara Narayan started 'Durga Puja' (worship of Goddess Durga) in his capital for the first time. That tradition is still followed in Cooch Behar Sadar.

Sri Chaitanya Dev visited Kamrup during the rule of Nara Narayan. His holiness stayed at Manikut crossing river Kartoa. In this connection Manikut is also known as 'Chaitanya Khola'. Famous Baisnava religious preacher Shankardev stayed permanently in this kingdom and preached Baisnava cult. He breathed his last here itself.

On Literature >> [next \(p13\)](#)

Maharaja Nara Narayan divided his kingdom into two parts. He donated the portion to the east of river Sankosh to Shukladhaj and kept the western part under his jurisdiction. This portion was named as 'Nija Behar' (own's Behar). Shukladhaj's portion consisted of east Assam including the land containing the Kamakkha temple along with Bidyagaon.

After ruling for 33 years Maharaja Nara Narayan passed away in 1587 A.D. leaving under the charge of his son Lakshmi Narayan.

a 'Chil' or eagle and crossed Bharali river near Gawhati. That is why he was also known as Chilarai. In quest of Assam, he captured Kachar, Manipur, Jayantia & Tripura so rapidly giving almost no scope for arranging army to the defending rulers. While attacking Gour for the second time, he breathed his last on the banks of Ganga suffering from pox. [next \(p14\)](#)



**(p14)** Maharaja Nara Narayan was then legitimately ruling his kingdom and peace prevailed everywhere. He used to attend his royal court everyday. But on the other hand dissatisfaction was cropping up in the mind of Shukladhaji. It occurred to him that it was his credit as army commander to extend such a vast kingdom. Everyone acknowledges his heroism and in that respect he had the right to enthrone as next king. Possessing an evil machination one day he arrived at the royal court with the intension of killing Nara Narayan. But after being there for some time, he dropped having lost his senses. Immediately Maharaja Nara Narayan descended from his throne and held fainting Shukladhaji in his arms. Recovering his senses, Shukladhaji bursted out and lamenting his foul desire asked for forgiveness. Maharaja Nara Narayan consoled him by saying that truly he deserved for his valor and service to the crown and likewise offered him the land of east Assam.

### **Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan [Rajshak 78-112 || 1587-1621 A.D.] : 4th Maharaja**

Maharaja Nara Narayan was succeeded by his only son Lakshmi Narayan. He was not brave and skilled in war tactics like his father. Infact he was also a weak administrator. At that time Akbar was the emperor of Delhi. His army commander captured Gour and many surrounding lands under Lakshmi Narayan. Lakshmi Narayan tried to fight back but faced defeated every time. He never participated in wars personally and rest assured only by sending soldiers in battles. So he had to lose [next \(p15\)](#).

**(p16)** During the next emperor Jahangir, Mughal army again attacked Behar and captured till Ghoraghat. Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan had to travel to Delhi to meet Badsha Jahangir. After exchanging royal gifts, Lakshmi Narayan came to terms with Jahangir that the Mughal will not capture any of Behar's land further and vice versa. Lakshmi Narayan returned from Delhi with few architects. Back home he established his capital at Atharokotha village within Cooch Behar district and built eighteen palaces for his eighteen sons.

Man Singh, army commander of the Delhi Badsha & ruler of Amber, came to Bagua at that time. Maharaja visited him over there and extended friendship with Man Singh. In 1596 A.D. Lakshmi Narayan wed off his sister, Prabhabati Devi, with Man Singh. In due time Maharaja lost two of his sons - Braja Narayan and Bhim Narayan. These sudden demises brought in anguish for Lakshmi Narayan. Thereafter he put up with divine contemplation. He breathed his last in 1627 A.D.

According to Akbarnama, kingdom of Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan extended from Trihut in the west to mountain-chains of Assam in the east, and from Ghoraghat in the south to Tibet in the north. It was 200 *krose* long and 40-100 *krose* wide. His army consisted of 2 lakhs infantry, 4 thousand cavalry, 7 hundred elephants & one [next \(p17\)](#)

**(p15)** to the Mughals. When Mughal army commander Ali Kuli Khan attacked Behar and captured lands adjacent to Gour, Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan had to admit to Mughal jurisdiction. This suppression arose discontent among the neighboring rulers. They united against the Behar king and Lakshmi Narayan had to seek Mughal help. Under the command of Jehaz Khan, Mughal army came to his rescue. After defeating the united force and raiding much wealth, Mughal army returned back to Bengal. [next \(p16\)](#)

**(p17)** hundred cannons. During his period Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan lost regions like east Assam, Tripura and Manipur.

Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan had attachment with education. Under his patronage many of his royal scholars composed literal works. Famous Baisnava preacher Madhavdeb composed "Bhakti Rachanabali", Sri Krishna Birth Mystery and "Adikanda". Poetic translation of "Sri Bhagwath Gita" was done by Gobinda Mishra. In 1616 on Maharaja's request Siddhantabagis created "Shivaratri Koumudi", "Mantra Dikkha Koumudi", "Sankranti Koumudi", "Ekadoshi Koumudi" and "Graham Koumudi".

Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan restored the Shiva Temple of Jalpesh. But construction of the temple was left incomplete due to his sudden death. During his rule Madhavdeb, the famous Baisnava preacher, took shelter and preached Baisnava religion. Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan declared the religion cited out by Madhavdeb as the imperial/state religion. Another follower Damodardeb also visited Behar and preached about Baisnava cult.

Of his eighteen princes, Bir Narayan, son of the Patrani (eldest Queen), was crowned in as the next king. Due to some reasons Lakshmi Narayan discharged the Brahmin Najir and appointed his son Mahi Narayan as the new Najir Deo. [next Maharaja](#)

**Source :- Translated** from "Kochbiharer Itihas", 2nd edition (1988), by **Shri. Hemanta Kumar Rai Barma** - ex-Nayeb Ahilkar of Kochbihar estate (SDO), M.A.,B.L.) || "**Kochbihar Parikrama**" edited by **Krishnendu Dey, Niraj Biswas & Digbijoy De Sarkar**

***click for Next Maharajas (from 5th Maharaja) > CHAPTER 2***

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[|| District Map ||](#) [|| District Block-demarcated Map ||](#) [|| Location in West Bengal ||](#)

[view in separte window](#)

[| District Profile](#)

[Data-Library](#)

[| NIC \(CoB\) Home | CoB](#)

[| More Links at Bottom |](#)

[|| Govt. Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Important Public Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Latest News-n-Activities ||](#)

## Royal History : Book of Facts and Events

Continued after 4th Maharaja :~

CHAPTER - 2 of  
6

[Previous King\(s\)](#)

**Maharaja Bir Narayan** [Rajshak 112-117 || 1621-1626 A.D.] : **5th Maharaja**

(p1) In his short spell of five years, Maharaja Bir Narayan failed to demonstrate skills of a strong administrator. He was not attentive to royal duties and used to live amongst fun & amusement. Taking this opportunity the king of Bhutan stopped giving taxes levied on him but sent gifts for the Maharaja every year. There were no foreign invasion during his rule and people lived peacefully.

On the other hand Maharaja Bir Narayan took keen interest in education. [next \(p2\)](#)

(p2) He was first to open schools in his kingdom. He arranged for imparting education not only to the princes, but also to the children of royal courtiers. He used to inspect the schools personally and examine proper impartation of education.

Wise and intellectuals were greeted with cordiality. Under the patronage of Maharaja Bir Narayan scholar Kabisekhar composed "Kirat Parba". This book can still be found at the royal library. [next \(p3\)](#)

**Maharaja Pran Narayan** [Rajshak 117-156 || 1626-1665 A.D.] : **6th Maharaja**

(p3) Maharaja Pran Narayan was crowned in as next king and Mahi Narayan adorned as Najir (summoner). Maharaja Pran Narayan issued currency in his own name.

At that time friction was going on between Aurangzeb and his brothers in the Mughal tent. Taking this opportunity Maharaja Pran Narayan invaded Ghoraghat, the center of Mughal power in Banga (Bengal). In 1661 he captured Dhaka, capital of Banga. But after enthroning as next Mughal sultan, Aurangzeb sent his army commander Mirzumla to Dhaka. Maharaja at that juncture took cover in mountain regions. Mirzumla captured capital of [next \(p4\)](#)

(p5) Maharaja Pran Narayan rebuilt the temples of Baneswar and Shandeswar. He dug the pool adjacent to Baneswar temple. His rebuilding of the Kamteswari temple of Gosanimari can be seen inscribed at the temple's entrance. Architects were sent for from Delhi to construct the Jalpesh temple. But he could not complete the construction within his lifetime. For his temple building endeavor Behar came to be known as the religious state.

Maharaja Pran Narayan's architectural mastermind could also be traced elsewhere. To facilitate communication network he constructed several broad *rajpaths* (highways) and bridges. According to historian Sihabuddin, accompanying Mughal army commander Mirzumla, Behar capital had many beautiful edifices. The roads were straight and beautified by trees alongside. In comparison to other places of east Bharat, Kochbihar/Behar had fine climate and housings. Oranges, mangoes, pepper and others were grown in abundance. People of this state expertised in *tantra-mantra* (magic- enchantment) and used spiritual water to heal wounds. Apart from this use of medicine was also familiar.

**Literature** : Maharaja Pran Narayan was

(p4) Behar and marched forward to invade Assam. To defend his kingdom, Maharaja Pran Narayan waged guerilla war against the Mughal army from the mountain covers. He turned out to harass the Mughals so much that they were forced to retreat at last. Again in 1664 A.D. Aurangzeb sent Shayesta Khan till Rajmahal to invade Behar. Then Maharaja Pran Narayan made a pact with Shayesta Khan.

During his time Behar kingdom expanded up to Tajhat Baharband Pargana in the south, Basakpur near Khutaghat of Goalapara district in the east and Bhatgaon within Morang in the west. [next \(p5\)](#)

(p6) intellectuals. He used to discuss *shastras* (Hindu philosophy/ideology) and religion with them at the royal court. Everyone in his court including the sentinel used to address in Sanskrit. On the Maharaja's order his court scholar Jaykrishna Bhattacharya composed "Prabha Prakashika" - notes on "Proyog Ratnamala" grammar. Another scholar Kabiratna composed "Rajkhandam" - history of the royal dynasty in Sanskrit. Scholar Srinath Brahman composed the poetic masterpieces of "Mahabharater Pada" & "Draupadi Swayambar". He also composed "Viswa Singha Charitam" in Sanskrit. These literary creativities has been restored at the royal library. At that time Krishna Mitra composed "Prahllad Charitra" and poetic translation of "Birat Parba" & "Karna Parba" took place.

Maharaja pran Narayan had three sons. Eldest son Vishnu Narayan passed away during his lifetime. Next two were Madan Narayan and Basudev Narayan. They were experts in different areas. In 1665 Maharaja Pran Narayan feel sick badly. In spite of treatments his ailing condition deteriorated gradually. One day it was heard that the Maharaja had breathed his last. On hearing this Nazir Mahi Narayan appeared

knowledgeable in Sanskrit grammar and literature. He was also a good poet and master in musical instruments. He created Pancharatna Sabha consisting of five jewels or [next \(p6\)](#)

**(p7)** & most powerful and everyone believed that he would seize the throne after the death of Pran Narayan.

In the meantime Maharaja Pran Narayan passed away in 1665. Then the four sons of Mahi Narayan engaged in unhealthy competition to capture the throne.

### **Maharaja Madan Narayan or Mod Narayan [Rajshak 156-171 || 1665-1680 A.D.] : 7th Maharaja**

Though Madan Narayan was crowned in as the king, practically Nazir Mahi Narayan used to direct him and indirectly managed state affairs. Mahi Narayan went on murdering faithful courtiers of Madan Narayan. He along with his sons ignored the royalty. In this way Maharaja Madan Narayan was rendered helpless and power-lost. Madan Narayan waited with patience. At last he gradually succeeded in bringing some courtiers and soldiers faithful & loyal to his side. With their help Maharaja Madan Narayan sentenced many loyal to the Nazir and started expelling the rebels. Being aware of the changed scenario, Mahi Narayan attacked the capital with his army. Fierce battle was fought between the two sides. Mahi Narayan was defeated and he fled in disguise of *sanyashi* (Hindu monk). His sons took shelter under the king of Bhutan. In that battle Mahi Narayan lost his fourth son and many soldiers. Mahi Narayan was ultimately arrested [next \(p8\)](#)

**(p9)** Those troops fought fiercely taking the side of the Mughals.

Maharaja Madan Narayan used to respect intellectuals in his kingdom. His royal court was adorned by many scholars. Among them Dwija Kabiraj composed "Drona Khanda".

### **Maharaja Basudev Narayan [Rajshak 171-173 || 1680-1682 A.D.] : 8th Maharaja**

Hearing about the death of Maharaja Madan Narayan sons of Mahi Narayan attacked Behar with the help of army from Bhutan king. The Raikats of Baikunthapur (descendants of Sisya Singha) came to the rescue. Yogyadev and Bhujdev Raikats proceeded with huge army and saved the kingdom from getting shattered and falling in the hands of the enemy. The Bhutia army was forced to retreat. The Raikats then crowned Basudev Narayan, youngest brother of Madan Narayan, as the king of Behar and supported the monarchy to settle down. Peace and order was restored in the kingdom once more. The Raikats returned to their homeland and Maharaja Basudev Narayan was able to rule for next two years. After that reuniting Bhutia army, Yajna

### **Maharaja Mahendra Narayan [Rajshak 173-184 || 1682-1693 A.D.] : 9th Maharaja**

**(p10)** In 1682, when Yajna Narayan & Jagat Narayan captured Behar and was massacring within the royal palace having also killed Maharaja Basudev Narayan, the Raikats rushed to the rescue. Fierce battle took place with the Bhutia soldiers of Yajna Narayan and the rebels were driven back. The Raikat brothers, well wisher of the Behar royalty, found the palace devastated and presence of 5 year old Mahendra

at the palace with some faithful soldiers to seize the throne. But seeing the king alive over there he returned with shame. In fact Mahi Narayan was the fittest [next \(p7\)](#)

**(p7 contd ..)** Mahi Narayan felt that his sons might kill him yearning to grab the throne. After much thought Mahi Narayan crowned Madan Narayan, second son of Pran Narayan, as the next king and supported him in his ruling the kingdom.

**(p8)** and put to death. With the help of the Bhutan king his sons attacked several times but lost at the hands of Madan Narayan. After this Maharaja Madan Narayan ruled peacefully for some time and after fifteen years of rule he breathed his last leaving behind no successor.

Maharaja Madan Narayan started scaling/evaluation of lands and register of land record of his people. He completed the construction of Jalpesh temple. After completing the *Shiva* temple building he offered 44 *jotes* (lease of lands) for the service of the deity. Revenue collected from those *Jotes* was utilised for *Sadabrata* (temple service).

In 1666 A.D. he helped Ram Singha, army commander of Delhi sultanate & king of Ambar, with 5 thousand shields & soldiers in the war against king of Assam. [next \(p9\)](#)

Narayan & Jagat Narayan (both sons of Mahi Narayan) again attacked Behar. This time they were able to capture and on entering the royal palace Yajna Narayan started brutal murder of everyone of the royal family. Maharaja Basudev Narayan was killed while attempting to flee. Mahendra Narayan, five year grandson of Pran Narayan and son of Vishnu Narayan, got spared from this spell of mass murder. On hearing this tragic turn up, Raikats Yogyadev & Bhujdev appeared with their army. On the banks of Mansai river fierce battle was fought between Yajna Narayan and the Raikats. After facing heavy defeat Yajna Narayan was forced to flee. Then the Raikats crowned Mahendra Narayan as the next king. [next \(p10\)](#)

**(p11)** kings men of Tapa, Manthana Kakina, Karjirhat and other places agreed to pay revenue to the Mughal *Subedar* and turned out to be *zamindars* (landlords) of those regions. In that way kings men of the southern part of the kingdom started paying revenues to Ibrahim Khan (ruler of Dhaka) and to the Fauzdar of Ghoraghat and accepted their subjugation. Even the later Raikat princes of Baikunthapur and Pangar



Narayan luckily surviving the brutal annihilation at the enemy's hand. Since Basudev Narayan had no son, Mahendra Narayan (son of Basudev's elder brother Vishnu Narayan) was crowned in as the next king of Behar. After everything was settled down the Raikats returned back to their homeland at Baikunthapur.

But Maharaja Mahendra Narayan could not peacefully rule his kingdom. On one hand minor age of the Maharaja and on the other hand Yogyadev & Bhujdev, the only supporters/friends of the kingdom, falling sick left the royalty helpless to fight back the enemy. There were no one next to the Raikats to help Mahendra Narayan. Yajna Narayan & his brother Jagat Narayan kept on harassing the royalty and created chaos in ruling the state. Taking advantage of this opportunity the rulers of surrounding regions declared independence from Behar kingdom. Defying the responsibilities conferred upon them, [next \(p11\)](#)

**(p12)** Maharaja Mahendra Narayan was a pious Baisnava. He was vegetarian and used to chant *Harinam* (praising Lord Hari) all the time. During his time scholar Ram Swaraswati translated "Bhiswa Parba".

### **Maharaja Rup Narayan [Rajshak 184-205 || Bangabda 1100-1121 || 1693-1714 A.D.] : 10th Maharaja**

After Maharaja Mahendra Narayan in the absence of any descendants of Pran Narayan, Rup Narayan (grandson of Mahi Narayan) was crowned in as next king. He kept back Shanta Narayan, his uncle's (Yajna Narayan) son, in the Najir (summoner) post and appointed Satya Narayan, other son of Yajna Narayan, as the Dewan (financial minister). Maharaja Rup Narayan was knowledgeable, religious, strong, brave, generous and handsome. He used to be the army commander before enthroning and thus he easily won over his people and soldiers and achieved mass loyalty. He kept back the previous ministers and efficiently carried out the administration. He issued currency in his own name.

With the aim of reestablishing the lands lost at the time of Mahendra Narayan, he waged war against the Mughal Fauzdar of Rangpur. But Maharaja could not withstand the mighty Mughals. After a long-drawn battle Maharaja Rup Narayan made truce with the Mughal. Following this Rup Narayan was able to sustain Boda, Patgram and [next \(p13\)](#)

**(p14)** Maharaja Rup Narayan constructed a beautiful temple of Sri Sri Madan Mohan Thakur in his capital. Inside the temple he established a fine-looking idol of "Madan Mohan". Maharaja Rup Narayan was religious and well conversant person. After ruling for 21 years he breathed his last in 1714 A.D.

### **Maharaja Upendra Narayan [Rajshak 205-254 || 1714-1763 A.D.] : 11th Maharaja**

On being sworn in as new king all commanders and royal courtiers paid loyalty to Maharaja Upendra Narayan. Maharaja issued currency in his name.

During that time king of Bhutan started extending his realm towards the plains. Bhutan King used to rule the mountain areas and no plain was under his jurisdiction. When he tried to invade the plains, he had to fight Maharaja Upendra Narayan on many occasions. But Maharaja Upendra Narayan could do

surrendered to these powers. Under the command of Ebadat Khan the Mughals attacked Behar. Having no other option, after discussions with his ministers Maharaja Mahendra Narayan settled down with Yajna Narayan and appointed as Najir (summoner). Commanding the Bahar army Yajna Narayan fought gallantly with the Muslim Mughals at Patgram. King of Bhutan also came forward to help the Maharaja. But the Mughals turned out victorious and captured Boda, Patgram and eastern Pargana.

After the passing away of Yajna Narayan, Shanta Narayan was sworn in as the new Najir. Rup Narayan, nephew of Yajna Narayan (son of brother Jagat Narayan), was made the army commander. Maharaja Mahendra Narayan tragically breathed his last at the age of 16. This marked **the end of the main stream of direct descendants of Maharaja Viswa Singha.** [next \(p12\)](#)

**(p13)** eastern Chakla and lost Karjihat, Kakina and Fatehpur Chakla. But after some days the Mughals disregarded that treaty and thus initiating war once again. In that war Maharaja Rup Narayan faced defeat and lost hold of Boda, Patgram and eastern Chakla. Maharaja Rup Narayan took *Ijara* (lease) of the three Chaklas in the name of his Najir under the Mughal supremacy.

Maharaja Rup Narayan shifted his capital from Atharokotha to Guriahati Gram (village) on the eastern bank of river Torsha. The capital was named as "Behar" where Rup Narayan ruled peacefully. He offered Balaram pur to Najiedeo (Shanta Narayan) and Baramkhana to Dewandeo (Satya Narayan) for residing. Of his four sons he lost two, Narendra Narayan & Vidya Narayan, during his lifetime. Among his rest two sons, Upendra Narayan and Kharga Narayan, the former was crowned in next to Maharaja Rup Narayan.

Establishment of **Madan Mohan Temple ...** [next \(p14\)](#)

**(p15)** Maharaja Upendra Narayan was sonless. For that reason he adopted Deena Narayan, child son of dewan Satya Narayan. Maharaja loved him very much. In fact he conferred upon him all authority to run the state administration. But Deena Narayan was not satisfied with that and he prayed for written will of the Maharaja regarding succession to the throne next to him. On the other hand, Maharaja Upendra Narayan still hoped of possessing a son of his own and for that reason he denied to give such written will. Furious at such denial, Deena Narayan met the



little to resist him.

Maharaja Upendra Narayan had two queens. Elder eyedebati (queen) was the Patrani (Queen of the land). Maharaja having attraction for a *baiji* (dancer) named Lalbai, was not allowed to enter the bed room of elder eyedebati. For that reason Maharaja constructed a small palace in Dhaluabari Gram far from capital Behar and used to reside over there with his younger queen. [next \(p15\)](#)

[\(p16\)](#) from the north side; Najir Deo proceeded with his army from the east and the Maharaja along with Mustafi planned to attack from the west side. Before that united force Md. Ali Khan had to face defeat and flee from Rangpur. Meanwhile in such turnouts Bhutan king occupied some northern regions of Behar.

Maharaja Upendra Narayan appointed Shatananda Goswami of Murshidabad as *Rajguru* (royal teacher/spirited one or path finder). After the death of Shatananda his son Ramananda Goswami became the next Rajguru.

During his time land measure of Behar kingdom was carried out. Some of his notable royal courtiers were Haradeb Khasnabis, Jaydeb Darbar Khan, Raghupati Rai, Chakrapani Jamdaria, Hareswar Karjee, Jagadish Karjee, Bireswar Karjee and Baleswar Karjee. The royal posts were Sardar, Aswayar, Kayastha, Nayeb, Ukil, Bakshi, Shikdar, Khannabish, Khas Dewaniya, Hisabnabis, Oyakkanabis, Patowari, Basunia, Tahasildar, Daptaria, Pujari, Kirtania, Patra, Bhandar Thakur, Chowdhury, Majumdar, Amin, Muhuri, Gomasta, Dalai, etc.

During the time of Upendra Narayan, Srinath composed "Birat parba" of Mahabharat. Narayan Dwija composed the poetical translation of "Naradiya Puran". These literatures have been preserved at the royal library. [next \(p16\) contd..](#)

### **Maharaja Debendra Narayan [Rajshak 254-256 || 1763-1765 A.D.] : 12th Maharaja**

[\(p17\)](#) After the demise of Maharaja Upendra Narayan, his son Debendra Narayan ascended throne of Behar at a minor age of four. During his time administration of the state totally broke down. The Bhutias started to spread out their kingdom encroaching the Behar regions. As per previous treaty representative of Bhutan king along with his associate used to stay in the Behar capital almost all the time. Apparently no necessary state affairs/decisions could be decided without the consent of that foreign representative. Every year the Bhutia ruler of Buxa Duar and other important Bhutia heads used to visit Behar till Chekakhata. Their hospitality was looked after by the Dewan of Behar. The Bhutia used to offer presents to the Behar Maharaja in kinds and in return the Maharaja used to pay double the price of those gifts. Amidst such lawlessness Maharaja Debendra Narayan with the help of his Dewan and other courtiers ruled for one year.

At that time a Brahmin (Hindu priest) named Rati Sharma resided in Balarampur. Maharaja Debendra Narayan was then 6 years old and one day he was playing with other children on the side of Padma Pukur (pond) on the southern side of the palace. There was a

Mughal Fauzdar Md. Ali Khan at Rangpur and tempted him to invade Behar with the condition that he himself would enthrone accepting the Mughal supremacy. According to such an agreement Md. ali Khan attacked Behar with a huge army. On the other hand Gouriprasanna Mustafi, *Bakshi* (a minister) of Maharaja Upendra Narayan, sternly chalked out war strategy to knock out the enemy. Accordingly Bhutan army commander proceeded [next \(p16\)](#)

### **(p16) contd..**

During his time there was an widespread earthquake (11th October, 1737 A.D.).

In the meantime his second queen gave birth to a male child. He was named Debendra Narayan. The Prince was only 4 years old when Maharaja Upendra Narayan breathed his last in 1763 A.D. Receiving the message of the passing away of the Maharaja, Rajmata (elder eyedebati) left for the Dhaluabari palace from her own palace in Behar. With the support of the royal courtiers she crowned in prince Debendra Narayan as the succeeding king and sacrificed her life on the crematory of her husband-king (an old practice of Sati - self immolation along with husband's corpse). People remembers such sacrifice of *Satirani* Rajmata even today . [next \(p17\)](#)

[\(p18\)](#) a sharp sword. While Maharaja's lifeless body lay on the ground, king's bodyguards came running and taking Rati Sharma in the temple cut him to pieces. Grief struck the kingdom and the palace wailed in sheer anguish. In such gloomy circumstances when the mournful royal courtiers were helpless to console the weebegone Rajmata (mother-queen of Maharaja), prime minister Gourinandan Mustafi restrained and made time-demanding necessary arrangements. He informed Dewan, Najir and other important personnel of the royal establishment about that sad incident. Thereafter all necessary duties were carried out. Rajguru Ramananda Goswami was found to mastermind the conspiracy. Thus Maharaja Debendra Narayan was murdered in 1765 A.D.

During this time on 12th August 1765 Bangadesh (then consolidated Bengal) came under the jurisdiction of British East India Company. Khajna (rent) of Boda, Patgram, Panga and other chaklas (regions) under the Maharaja of Behar had to be paid to East India Company from then onwards.

Next Behar King (13th Maharaja) ..... [\(next CHAPTER-3\)](#)

temple at that spot. That day Rati Sharma appeared over there suddenly and beheaded Maharaja Debendra Narayan with [next \(p18\)](#)

**Source** :- **Translated** from "Kochbiharer Itihas", 2nd edition (1988), by Shri. Hemanta Kumar Rai Barma - ex-Nayeb Ahilkar of Kochbihar estate (SDO), M.A.,B.L.) || "Kochbihar Parikrama" edited by Krishnendu Dey, Niraj Biswas & Digbijoy De Sarkar

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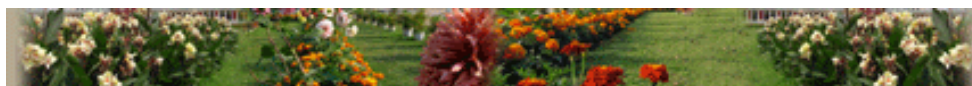


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## Royal History : Book of Facts and Events

Continued after 12th Maharaja :~

CHAPTER - 3 of  
6

[Previous King\(s\)](#)

**Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan** [Rajshak 256-261 || 1765-1770 A.D.] : **13th Maharaja**

(p1) After the death of Maharaja Debendra Narayan, Najir Rudra Narayan decided to make his nephew Khagendra Narayan the next king. But high ranking courtiers & kings men like minister Gouriprasanna Mustafi, khasnabis Gouriprasad and others did not support such decision. At last based on united decision, Dhairjendra Narayan, cousin of Debendra Narayan (son of his eldest uncle Kharga Narayan who was also the dewan), was crowned in as the king of Behar. Najir Rudra Narayan held the royal umbrella upon Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan. Gouriprasad Mustafi was appointed as khasnabis. His brother Shachinandan Mustafi was favourite to Maharaja. He used to stay with the king and no royal proceeding was carried out without his consent/advice. Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan issued coins in his own name.

In the meantime Debraj, king of Bhutan, felt sorry coming to know from his spies about the assassination of Maharaja Debendra Narayan. When he further learnt that Rajguru Ramananda Goswami was behind the conspiracy, he sent his army to arrest Ramananda and thereafter took him to the Bhutan capital Punakh. Debraj sentenced him and sent a royal messenger named Pensuthma to the Behar court. Execution of any royal proceeding was not possible without the prior consent of Pensuthma. [next \(p2\)](#)

(p3) At first Dhairjendra Narayan expressed his inability to be present at the party. At that point the Bhutias informed the Maharaja that in his absence they would also not attend the said party and would boycott the same. At last Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan agreed to join the party. There he was imprisoned while king's soldiers [\(p3 contd..\)](#)

(p2) During this time many regions like Jalpeswar, Mandas, Jalash, Lakshmipur, Santarabari, Maraghat, Bholka and others went under the grip of the Bhutias. All those regions were under Behar kingdom. By that time Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan married Kamteswari Devi and other five maidens. After some time Maharaja obtained his son Dharendra Narayan.

At that time of all royal courtiers Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan used to trust Ram Narayan the most. Ram Narayan was the Dewan as well as the eldest brother of Dhairjendra Narayan. Rest of the royal courtiers felt jealous of being deprived from such trust worthiness. They started to incite the Maharaja against Ram Narayan. It might be hard for Dhairjendra Narayan to arrive at any conclusion and probably that drove the deranged king to think otherwise. At last one day Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan sent for Ram Narayan in his palace and struck him with his sword. Maharaja's spies then murdered Ram Narayan. Bhutan king Debraj came to know about the incident through his spies and was convinced that Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan had lost his wits. Debraj sent some of his loyal courtiers along with some soldiers to Buxa. They invited Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan to their annual feast. [next \(p3\)](#)

(p3contd..) fled and the newly appointed Dewan also escaped the seizure. Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan was taken back to Bhutan capital Punakh.

During this time large scale famine broke out (1176 *Bangabda* - Bengali calender). [\(next p4\)](#)

**Maharaja Rajendra Narayan** [Rajshak 261-263 || 1770-1772 A.D.] : **14th Maharaja**

(p4) Debraj, king of Bhutan, imprisoned Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan and crowned in Rajendra Narayan (Dhairjendra Narayan's second elder brother) as the next Behar king. After ascending the throne Maharaja Rajendra Narayan appointed Hareswar Karjee as the dewan and Jadunandan as the treasurer. But practically the Maharaja had no power in administering the state. Virtually Bhutan royalty's representative Pensuthma was the administrator of the kingdom. All kings men abode by his [\(p4 contd..\)](#)

(p4 contd..) command/instruction. At that time Bhutian influence was at such an extent that Maharaja Rajendra Narayan was the king in name only. Even he along with the *Rajmata* (mother-queen) had to live upon the income from his personal farm though Pensuthma used to grant little for their living. In that way two years passed away. By that time Rajendra Narayan got married. Tragically on the fifth day after his marriage Rajendra Narayan suffered severe fever and breathed his last in 1772 A.D. [\(next p5\)](#)

**Maharaja Dharendra Narayan** [Rajshak 263-266 || 1772-1775 A.D.] : **15th Maharaja**

(p5) Maharaja Rajendra Narayan died in 1772 leaving behind no son to succeed him. Taking this opportunity in order to acquire the throne Baikuntha Narayan conspired with Bhutan king's representative

(p5 contd..) of Bhutia soldiers. On the other side, Najirdeo Kashinath Lahiri, Gosaijideo discussed with the Queen and decided to enthrone Dharendra Narayan (son of Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan) as

Pensuthma. Pensuthma confiscated the royal throne, scepter & umbrella and kept in the Madan Mohan temple under heavy guard ([p5 contd..](#))

([p6](#)) also assembled there. All of them expelled the Bhutia soldiers on guard over there and crowned in Dharendra Narayan as the next Behar king. Najirdeo held the royal umbrella over the Maharaja. Coins were issued in the name of Maharaja Dharendra Narayan.

In the meantime Pensuthma fled to Bhutan through Buxaduar and informed the Bhutan King about the turnover of events in Behar. Furious with the circumstances Bhutan King sent an army of 4000 soldiers to invade Behar capital. Behar Najirdeo also proceeded to resist the attack. The Bhutia army was defeated in that battle and forced to retreat. Bhutan King then collected all soldiers within his kingdom and sent his nephew Zimpe along with a strong army of 18,000 soldiers to win over the Behar capital. Those Bhutia soldiers descended the hills along the mountain passes of Buxaduar, Lakshimpurduar and other passages. Fierce battle was fought with the soldiers of Behar at a place named Sanjamini. Many soldiers were wounded and lost their lives. In that battle predicting defeat the Behar army retreated. That moment Gosaijideo and Khasnabis shifted Maharaja Dharendra Narayan and Rajmata (mother-queen) to Panga in Rangpur district.

At last Bhutan army commander Zimpe invaded Behar capital and captured the kingdom. Thenafter he enthroned **Bijendra Narayan 16th Maharaja** (son of Dewan ([next p7](#)))

([p8](#)) With Maharaja Dharendra Narayan's letter Kashinath Lahiri met Company agent Mr. Harris at Dinajpur and proposed on behalf of the Behar King to give one lakh rupees to the Company and in return Company would drive out the Bhutias from the Maharaja's kingdom. But then Governor General Hastings did not comply to such proposal. At last an agreement was met upon according to which the Maharaja would pay annual revenue to the Company and in return the Company would always protect the Behar kingdom from any encroachment by the enemy. According to that agreement Behar practically came under the supremacy of the British.

Under the command of Mr. Paling a regiment of soldiers along with four cannons left Kalikata (Calcutta/Kolkata) marched through Rangpur towards Mughalhat. Najirdeo Gosai and Khasnabis along with their soldiers joined Mr. Paling. Message was sent to the Bhutia camp that if they did not abandon the fort then Mr. Paling would attack the following day around 10 a.m. But the Bhutias did not abandon the Gitaldaha Fort. Following day Mr. Paling and his lieutenant crossed river Dharla and landed on the other bank. But Najirdeo and Behar army commander Bhagabant Kumar had by that time had attacked the Gitaldaha Fort & cleared off the Bhutias. The Bhutia soldiers took shelter in Baladanga Fort. At that instance Mr. Paling ordered that no further attacks should be carried out without his ([next p9](#)).

([p10](#)) Mr. Paling having met the Maharaja stayed in Behar for five days. Stationing two companies of soldiers at the capital Mr. Paling proceeded to the north along with Najirdeo Gosai, Khasnabis and regiment of soldiers. He captured the main fort of Chekakhata owned by the Bhutias. Chekakhata was

the Behar king. Accordingly Najirdeo reached Madan Mohan temple equipped with many soldiers. Other royal persons of high ranks ([next p6](#)).

([p7](#)) Ram Narayan who was murdered by Dhairjendra Narayan) as the new king of Behar. Maharaja Bijendra Narayan was taken back to Chekakhata in Bhutan. It became hard for child Bijendra Narayan to bear the climate of the mountains and falling sick breathed his last. The Bhutias then totally brought the Behar kingdom under them. They built forts at Gitaldaha, Baladanga, Manduamari & other places and stationed soldiers over there. Bhutan army commander Zimpe himself stayed at the Behar fort under tight security of strong soldiers detained around the palace. There were soldiers from north Bhutan in his army. They were infact cannibals and possessed beastly habits. When there was scarcity of meat, they were offered the flesh of the captive soldiers. Zimpe pegged in poisonous bamboo poles all around the Behar palace so that whoever had his leg cut by those poles was sure to die!

In that way the Bhutias captured the entire kingdom of Behar. Only **Rupan Singh** of Rahimganj Pargana was able to uphold its freedom. At that juncture Najirdeo, Gosai Khagendra Narayan and Khasnabis after discussing with the Rajmata came to the conclusion that in no other way but the help of the British army it was possible to free the kingdom from the clutches of the Bhutias and accordingly they should immediately plead with the British. At that time East India Company was ruling Bangladesh (then consolidated Bengal).

([next p8](#))

([p9](#)) instruction/permission. Thereafter crossing Dinahata Fort Mr. Paling proceeded with four cannons & one company of soldiers. When they approached Baladanga Fort, the Bhutia soldiers marched forward to attack them. Mr. Paling ordered his soldiers to move back. In that way they moved back passing the cannons' lineup. On the other hand, the Bhutia soldiers kept on marching forward with more confidence noticing the retreat of the English soldiers. At that point the English canons started firing at the misguided Bhutia soldiers and thus killing them in groups. Noticing that English deception, the rest of Bhutia soldiers fled for their life. Mr. Paling captured the Nazirganj Fort where from the Bhutia soldiers fled and took shelter in the Behar fort. Mr. Paling appeared at the Behar capital. He set his camp by the pond-side of Debibari. He stationed two companies of soldiers to the southern side of the palace and another two companies at Khagrabari. Many Bhutia soldiers fled from the palace that night. Next Day all the poisonous bamboo poles pegged around the palace were removed by rolling down banana tree-trunks. In the following day's battle Bhutan army commander Zimpe fought fiercely with his loyal soldiers and bravely lost his life. Few Bhutia soldiers were held prisoners. Flags of the Maharaja and the Company were hoisted at the palace. Najirdeo and Khasnabis appeared at the palace and after the cleaning process the Rajmata along with Maharaja Dharendra Narayan entered the palace. ([next p10](#)).

([p11](#)) not at all happy perceiving the British domination. He felt sorry at the turning of events and questioned the Najirdeo about what led him to bow down the divine-blest land before a foreign power. Najirdeo explained that it was for his sake - for freeing him as well as the land from the Bhutias, such



near the present place of Raja Bhatkhawa. Thus in 1772 A.D. under the protection of the British the Bhutias were expelled from Behar.

Mr. Paling informed the Governor General at Kalikata about the victory and waited for the latter's consent on whether he should proceed to the hilly regions of Bhutan. On the other hand the British Company was not interested to attack Bhutan. But message was sent to the Bhutan king that if Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan, his brother Surendra Narayan, Dewandeo and others held prisoners were freed then the Bhutan King could keep his kingdom under his jurisdiction. Bhutan King agreed to such pact and after meeting Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan he bade them farewell along with royal offerings as a token of friendship.

Najirdeo and other high ranking officials met Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan and offered him *najranas* (gifts/presents) in celebration of the come back of the Maharaja. But Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan was [\(next p11\)](#).

### **Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan** [Rajshak 266-274 || 1775-1783 A.D.] : **17th Maharaja (second term)**

**(p12)** When Maharaja Dharendra Narayan passed away in 1775 leaving behind no son to succeed him, on the request of Najirdeo, Khasnabis and other high-ranking officials, Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan ascended the throne for the second time. But he used to remain absorbed in the worship/devotion to Goddess Bhagwati. His attention towards royal administration lessened. In case Khasnabis used to present him capital & clothing, Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan distributed the same among the poor & needy. He used to accept nothing for his consumption or personal luxury.

After a few days Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan set off on pilgrimage. Even on the request of Gosai, Khasnabis and other officials, he did not take horses, tents & manpower along with him and set out with a few Brahmin priests. Khasnabis secretly arranged for the Maharaja's bodyguards. Maharaja used to tour around on foot and spend the night under trees. On his journey Raja Baidyanath, king of Dinajpur, met the Maharaja and presented him gifts. But Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan distributed those kinds among the poor people. Reaching Gaya he carried out ceremonial *Sradhas* (rituals offered to the past ancestors) and granted *Brahmattar* to Brahmins. He also granted lots to the poor over there. On reaching Kashi (sacred place of the Hindus) he donated to [\(next p13\)](#).

**(p14)** Judgments were passed on the basis of evidences & witness. Results of cases were intimated to the Maharaja. Responsibility of maintaining peace & order was vested on the Kotwal (a post). But the Kotwal was not entitled to judge. On the basis of written complaint of the Kotwal all *Faujdari* litigations were tried by the court. There was no custom of registering litigations. No life sentence was given during Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan. Generally all proceedings of judgments were carried out at the palace itself and general people used to be present over there.

### **Trade & Commerce :~**

Every year approximately ten thousand *Mone* salt,

sole circumstance-seeking act was imperative at that juncture. But the Maharaja could not bear the acceptability of foreign supremacy and in turn paying revenue thus draining out resources from own land. Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan emphasized that it would have been better if Viswasingha's dynastical rule had come to an end in letting any other local king to rule the land. Previously privileged as an independent king, he could not tolerate ruling his own land under any other's dominance. When Dhairjendra Narayan was escorted to the capital and asked upon to ascend the throne, emotion stricken Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan declined to enthrone excusing his dedication to the divine power. He asked Dharendra Narayan to enthrone and rule the land.

Mr. Paling returned to Rangpur stationing one company of soldiers in Behar. Maharaja Dharendra Narayan started ruling Behar in presence of the dejected ex-Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan. Maharaja Dharendra Narayan passed away in 1775 leaving behind no son to succeed. [\(next p12\)](#)

**(p13)** the Brahmins and the poor. After resting there for a few days he returned back home. Due to that pilgrimage his soul smoothened to some extent from the dejection he was suffering from.

In the meantime Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan earned another son who was named as Harendra Narayan. Maharaja donated a lot in connection to the birth of the new prince. Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan fell sick afterwards. In spite of utmost attending by his doctors his sickness aggravated day-by-day. At that stage the Maharaja passed a will according to which his son Harendra Narayan would be the next king of Behar and adjoining *Chaklas* (regions). By the time Harendra Narayan mature enough to rule, Rajmata (mother-queen) would direct the administration. Maharaja passed away in 1783 A.D.

### **Administration & Judicial System :~**

During Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan there was a single judicial court for trial of all types of cases of the kingdom. Shibprasad Mustafi was the judge. There was no rule for accepting fee/charge for suits. Application for litigation was placed before the Maharaja. The opponent was summoned. Judge used to carry out the hearings with the help of *Pandits* (learned ones acting as pleaders). *Muchulika* (undertaking) was collected from both the parties. [\(next p14\)](#)

**(p15)** girl ranged from 12 to 15 Narayani while each Koch boy was sold at a maximum price of 25 Narayani. Kalita boy was of 50 Narayani. Sometimes children were exported to Brahmadesh. Neighboring Bhutias & Garos stole children from Behar and engaged them as servants/attendants.

### **State Condition :~**

At that time people were in a wretched condition due to the continuing internal & external friction of Behar kingdom. They had no security. For an Anna (paisa) they could have rice, salt, oil, fish, chilly etc. for a day's food. The northern side of the kingdom had thin habitation while the southern side was densely populated.

(one Mone = 40 Kg.) two/three thousand Mone molasses and small amount of iron were imported. Traders used to buy approximately on lakh Mone tobacco, ten thousand Mone Mustard-seed and opium from different hats (market places) and collected the same at the ports of Mogolhat & Debiganj. From there those products were exported to Murshidabad and Dhaka. Income declined from 1,8,763 Narayani (Maharaja's currency) in 1181 Bangabda (Bengali calender) to 1,03,022 Narayani in 1184 Bangabda. Expenditure for the said years were 70,383 and 39,811 Narayani respectively. At that time there was custom of human trading. Boys & girls were beautifully ornamented and sold at the markets. Approximately 100 children were traded annually from that segment. Price of each [\(next p15\)](#)

**(p16)** people used to rob by their own group of dacoits. East India Company took special steps to repress the dacoits. In 1773 A.D. Captain Thomas lost his life while attacking a group of saints. After that soldiers were stationed at different northern places to suppress the dacoits and saints. Napali saints took shelter in the jungles of Baikunthapur under Jalpaiguri district and kept on infiltrating Behar and bothering public life. [\(next p16contd..\)](#)

### Saints of that period :-

A group of saints appeared that time. They lent out money and recovered twice to thrice of that amount. A saint named Narayangiri acquired extensive power. Many people even had to run away from the land to avoid being tormented at their hands.

### Dacoits during that period :-

During that period among other regions of Behar kingdom Rangpur and Dinajpur were much infested by dacoits. Bhavani Pathak, Majun Saha and others were notable dacoits of that time. Even rich influential [\(next p16\)](#)

[\(p16contd..\)](#) At last Collector of Rangpur resisted such troublesome situation by setting up army stations at Dimla and Baikunthapur. Those saints almost used no weapons. They were very brave and took away all the strong boys forcibly with them along the way they passed through and impelled them to join their group. Local people had a affection for them and so did not use to reveal their whereabouts. For that reason it was hard for the Company authorities to suppress them. [\(next Maharaja\)](#)

**Source :- Translated** from "Kochbiharer Itihas", 2nd edition (1988), by Shri. Hemanta Kumar Rai Barma - ex-Nayeb Ahilkar of Kochbihar estate (SDO), M.A.,B.L.) || "Kochbihar Parikrama" edited by Krishnendu Dey, Niraj Biswas & Digbijoy De Sarkar

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## Royal History : Book of Facts and Events

Continued after 17th Maharaja :~

CHAPTER - 4 of  
6

[Previous King\(s\)](#)

**Maharaja Harendra Narayan** [Rajshak 274-331 || 1783-1840 A.D.] : **18th Maharaja**

(p1) When Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan passed away in 1783 A.D., it was time for infant Harendra Narayan to be sworn in as the next king and as per Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan's will until Harendra Narayan matured enough to look after the administration, Rajmata would direct the state administration. But Sachinandan Mustafi, Shivprasad Mustafi, Rupchandra, Bishnuprasad Bakshi, Joygobinda Lahiri and other high ranking officials discussed and hinted at the conclusion that Najirdeo was planning to crown in his son on the Behar throne. Hence they alerted Jital Singh, Habilder of the Company's army. Jital Singh had to exercise under the command of Rajmata/Queen as directed by the Company. Maharani/Queen asked Jital Singh to arrange for the security of the royal scepter and umbrella and further instructed him not to allow anyone inside the Durbar (royal hall-room) without her prior consent. As per custom crowning-in ceremony was not possible until and unless Najirdeo of the kingdom held the royal umbrella upon the king sworn-in. In the meantime Najirdeo reached the Behar palace from Balarampur. He brought his son Birendra Narayan along with him with the intension to enthrone him. But he was refused to enter the Durbar hall he well fathomed the circumstances built up hinting his machination and angrily returned back to Balarampur. Since the Najir's presence was [next.\(p2\)](#)

(p3) and the seal were confiscated from Najirdeo. Thereafter when Najirdeo along with his soldiers had left, Durbar hall was closed down and guards were posted on vigil. Thus the crowning of Maharaja Harendra Narayan was completed.

Returning back to Balarampur, Najirdeo intimated the Company representative at Rangpur, Mr. Goodland, about the insult he faced at the hands of Habilder Jital Singh through his official Shyamchandra Ray. Trusting Najir's words Mr. Goodland brought back Jital Singh to Rangpur and sent another Habilder along with fresh soldiers to Behar. Jital Singh was then dismissed. Noticing such turn of events Najirdeo interpreted that Mr. Goodland had support for his doings and hence there was nothing to fear. Hence after ten days of crowning in Maharaja Harendra Narayan, Najirdeo set off for capital Behar to enthrone himself. Being informed of such desire, Rajmata in fright informed the new Habilder. Habilder assured that none would be allowed to enter the palace interiors by any means. But when Najirdeo with his soldiers set foot in the capital, people fled from palace and town hearing the beating of army drums. After entering the palace Najirdeo ascended the throne and himself held the royal umbrella thus signifying his crowning. He issued

(p2) compulsory at the crowning-in ceremony, Rajmata set off for Balarampur and returned back to Behar along with Najirdeo.

After entering the palace, Najirdeo brought infant Harendra Narayan at the Durbar hall. He himself sat on the throne with Harendra Narayan on his left lap and his own son on the other side holding the royal scepter and the umbrella. Currency were issued in the name of Maharaja Harendra Narayan. Brahmins chanted Ved-mantra (chantings from holy Hindu books) while cannons were fired to mark the enthronement of the new king of Behar.

Later witty Najirdeo utilizing Maharaja's new *sealmohar* (stamp or royal emblem) noted down that after the death of Maharaja Harendra Narayan his son Birendra Narayan would be the king of Behar and kept away the paper along with the seal. Royal officials intimated Habilder Jital Singh about that secret. Accordingly when Jital Singh asked Najirdeo to hand over the paper and the seal, turning furious in excitement Najirdeo knocked the Habilder. In return Jital Singh held out his sword while a dozen of soldiers besieged the Najir to their bayonets end. Though the Najir's bodyguards were excited at the incident, could do little seeing the arrest of their master. The said paper [next.\(p3\)](#)

(p4) He set around the palace interior on guard and prevented supply of any food items to the palace interiors. Rajmata along with Maharaja Harendra Narayan were held under home-arrest without any food. Meanwhile the Maharaja was attacked with pox. No arrangement of doctors or attendants were allowed by the Najir, but luckily Maharaja recovered in spite of no healing.

In the meantime Rajmata sent a letter to the Governor General at Kolkata through Gosai and Khasnabis intimating about the crisis of the Maharaja of Behar. Even Mr. Goodland was informed that Najirdeo himself had claimed the Behar throne. When he was further assured of the menace created by Najirdeo pertaining to refusal of food to Maharaja Harendra Narayan, Mr. Goodland at first imprisoned Najir's official Shyamchandra Ray. Najirdeo on the other hand fled to Balarampur fearing arrest. Gosai and Khasnabis reached Behar and started looking after state administration. Mr. Goodland arrested Najirdeo and imprisoned him in Behar capital.

Mr. Goodland informed the Governor General at Kolkata about his actions. But Governor General was not pleased with Goodland's steps and hence called

currency in his own name and created his own sealmohtar (emblem). He killed all the kingsmen loyal to the Maharaja. [next \(p4\)](#)

**(p5)** Maharaja Harendra Narayan. Mr. Moore met the Maharaja and stationed one company of soldiers along with Subedar Gopal Singh to protect the Behar palace. Rajmata directed state administration in place of minor Maharaja Harendra Narayan while Gosai & Khasnabis helped Rajmata to look after state duties.

Meanwhile Najirdeo passed away. His elder brother Bhagwant Narayan attacked Behar palace with 4000 soldiers. While Subedar Gopal Singh was preparing to fight back with his soldiers, he was shown a fake British order to surrender the palace to Bhagwant Narayan. Thus when Gopal Singh ceased to fight, there was no other option before the Maharaja's few numbered loyal soldiers but to resist the enemy on their own. They were defeated easily. Rajmata took shelter in the Madan Mohan Temple along with the Maharaja. But they were caught in no time and Bhagwant Narayan took them prisoners to Balarampur.

At that time McDowell was the British representative at Rangpur. Having heard of the fatal condition of the Behar royalty, he informed the Governor General about the events. Two companies of soldiers reached Rangpur through Baharampur from Kolkata. Following day Captain and the Lieutenant reached Najirganj along with four companies of soldiers. Captain Rawton was the commander of the force. The army was divided into four and surrounded [next \(p6\)](#)

**(p7)** In that strangle about 250 hundreds were killed and few soldiers were arrested. Fire was set to Najir's house. Rajmata along with the loyal people crossed the river. In Palki (carriage or transport-means carried by two/four persons on foot) Maharaja and Rajmata were brought to Behar palace. Maharaja offered hospitality to the British officers and felicitated them by giving two elephants, two horses, ten thousand currency along with valuable gems.

As ordered by the Governor General, Shova Singh Subedar along with one company of soldiers were entrusted the duty of protecting the palace. A committee was formed for investigating the tyranny of Najirdeo. Later Najirdeo was expelled from his duties as per the committee report. It was also decided that there would be no claimants other than Maharaja Harendra Narayan to the Behar throne.

Arrangement were made for the education of Maharaja Harendra Narayan. Harishankar Chakraborty was appointed to teach him Sanskrit and Munshi Narsingha was to teach him Bengali & Pershi. Since Maharaja Harendra Narayan was of minor age, Governor General Lord Cornwallis appointed on commission Henry Douglas to look after state administration. Joining duty Mr. Douglas appointed Joygopal Singha as Dewan and Krishnaprasad Ray as the judge of Faujdari Court. It was ordered that in every royal paper/letter there should be the British stamp of [next \(p8\)](#)

**(p9)** Maharaja Harendra Narayan acquired outstanding knowledge in Pershi, Bengali and Sanskrit. He also mastered the art of painting and

him back to Kolkata and sent Mr. Peter Moore to Rangpur in his place. By that time Najirdeo had escaped from prison. He along with Shyamchandra were rearrested and sent to [next \(p5\)](#)

**(p6)** Balarampur from four quarters. Supply of food to the Najir's house was stopped. That was rainy season and everywhere it was flooded with water. After much attempts Ganesh Jamadar and Subedar could not arrange any boat to cross the river. At last two small boats could be arranged somehow. But message was received from the Rajmata that Najir had her along with the Maharaja seated on mattress of explosive and would blow them up to pieces if the Captain dared to cross the river and set foot in Balarampur. Again another day news spread out that Najir was going to release the Maharaja. In that way six days passed by and on the seventh day the British Captain prepared to attack at early morning. Due to heavy downpour Najir's soldiers were still in slumber while Captain Rawton commanded his soldiers to proceed. Captain Rawton crossed the river with a few soldiers in the two small boats. The gate of the house at Balarampur was still not opened. With a few fast moving soldiers Captain ran for the room where the Maharaja had been kept. On reaching there they found Maharaja Harendra Narayan outside the room. Bishnuprasad Bakshi identified the child Maharaja. Taking up the Maharaja in arms Captain ran back to the boat and landed him safely on the other bank. By the time other soldiers were then persuading the Rajmata to follow them escape from Balarampur, Najir's soldiers were alerted and they started firing. Then three companies of British soldiers also started firing from three directions.

[next \(p7\)](#)

**(p8)** Douglas beside Maharaja's *sealmohar* (emblem/stamp). Thus every royal order bore Maharaja's signature on the above and Douglas' signature below. All *mahals* (parts/ regions of kingdom) were auctioned. That increased state's income to much extent. State expenditures were checked down and many officials were laid off. Subjects had to pay stipulated taxes/revenues on the last day of each month. Royal officials were also paid the same day. In that way state administration was orderly carried out.

Mr. Douglas personally looked after the lessons taught to Maharaja Harendra Narayan. He arranged for appropriate Bengali & Pershi teachers. Maharaja used to write to the Governor General after every three months. He used to exercise and ride horses everyday.

After Mr. Douglas returned back to kolkata, first Mr. Lamsden and then Charles Andrews were appointed as the Commissioner of Behar state. Mr. Andrews appointed Shyamchandra Chatterjee as the Incharge of Dewani & Faujdari matters, Hingulababu as treasurer and Rajib Lochan Bose as Khasnabis. Hingulababu also acted as the advisor of Mr. Andrews. All mahals of the state were auctioned at the highest bid and that fetched state's income to manifold. Both King and subjects started living peacefully ensuing discipline in the state. [next \(p9\)](#)

**(p10) His notable Achievements :-**  
# Sagar Dighi



music. He expertised in horse riding, elephant riding, shooting, mechanics and other subjects. In that way when Maharaja reached his adulthood surpassing his childhood, he grew up into a bright, handsome looking king. His intelligence and skills attracted everyone.

By that time proposal for His marriage was counter for. Maharaja Harendra Narayan married the daughters of Jadunath Ishore and Padmanath Karjee. Through majestic arrangements his wedding was carried out amidst pomp and glory.

In 1795 A.D. William T. Smith was appointed the new Commissioner. Maharaja Harendra Narayan attained a son in 1796. He named his son as Shibendra Narayan. On the occasion of the birth of the prince lot of grants were given to the Brahmins, poor & needy. After a few days he attained his second son named as Meghendra Singha. In 1797 Richard Amuti was appointed as the new Commissioner. At last in **1799 A.D. Maharaja Harendra Narayan was allowed to run the state independently** by the British Governor General. Such a glorious event was celebrated by firing canons, through fireworks, dance & music and a magnificent party (*bhoj*)! [next \(p10\)](#)

**(p11)** Apart from his own works, under the patronage of Maharaja Harendra Narayan of the many books translated in Bengali, notable ones are "Bishnu Puran", "Brahmabaibartta Puran", "Bhagbath Puran", "Narsingha Puran". Language and expressions of these books are appreciable. These books/scripts are valuable assets as ancient literary works.

#### **His religious sentiment :**

Maharaja Harendra Narayan had a pious soul. During his period **Holi** festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm. All paths of the palace and the capital used to turn red in abir (a coloured dust used in Holi). At that time Durga Puja was celebrated with enough pomp and glory. Maharaja used to visit in procession to observe the idol of Goddess Durga. On Mahaastami (eighth day of worship) approximately one thousand he-goats and one hundred buffalos were slaughtered on the altar of the Goddess. At the *puja mandap* (worship site) there were arrangements of dance & music.

When the royal palace shifted to Dhaluabari, Maharaja Harendra Narayan started to live like a saint. He often used stay in meditation, contemplating God Mahadeb. During that time he started to build a temple for "Ma Anandamoyee" - Goddess Kali. He used live amidst spiritual habits. He used to smear ashes on his body and wear necklace of Rudrakha (a kind of fruit).

[next \(p12\)](#)

#### **Maharaja Shibendra Narayan [Rajshak 331-338 || 1840-1847 A.D.] : 19th Maharaja**

**(p13)** After Maharaja Harendra Narayan his son Shibendra Narayan ascended the throne in 1840 A.D. New currency were issued in his name his crowning in was celebrated with great enthusiasm. Maharaja donated lands as *bhusampatti* for Madan Mohan temple and to many Brahmins on that occasion.

Maharaja Shibendra Narayan established a sabha (system) known as "Dharma Sabha" for trying cases of

In 1807 A.D. the famous Sagar Dighi (big pond/lake) was excavated by Maharaja Harendra Narayan and a temple of Lord Shiva (Hiranyagarbha Shiva Temple) was constructed on the western side of the Dighi.

#### **# Vetaguri Palace**

In 1813 A.D Maharaja Harendra Narayan built a beautiful palace at Vetaguri in place of the worn-out old palace at Behar capital. People shifted in Vetaguri from the old town of Behar. Maharaja entered the palace on the auspicious day of Ratha Yatra (a Hindu festival). Within a few days the place was transformed into a beautiful town.

#### **# Palace & Temple at Dhaluabari**

Maharaja Harendra Narayan built another palace at Dhaluabari. Over there previous Maharaja Upendra Narayan had also built a palace. Market place and town shifted from Vetaguri to Dhaluabari. Maharaja also built a Shiva temple at Dhaluabari.

#### **Maharaja Harendra Narayan's Literary side :**

Maharaja Harendra Narayan had literary blend of mind. He composed many books like "Brihatdharma Puran", "Upakatha", "Skandha Puran", "Rajputra Upakhan", "Krishna Yogsar", "Ramayan Sundar Kanda" & "Mahabharat Oishik Parba". [continued next \(p11\)](#)

**(p12)** He composed many Shyamasangit (songs in praise of Goddess Kali) during his time.

Maharaja Harendra Narayan made up his mind to go on pilgrimage. Arrangements were made as per his desire. Many boats were prepared as means of transport. Brahmins, musicians, cooks and others would also accompany. On 24th Magh of Bengali calendar year 1242, Maharaja Harendra Narayan set off for Baranasi. Within a few days he reached Chilmari. There on the occasion of Ashokastami after taking the holy dip in the Brahmaputra Maharaja donated a lot. Then he reached Sirajganj. Crossing river Bharal he reached a place known as Kasarhat Pukhuria and took the holy dip in the Bhagirathi. There also he donated in open hand. Maharaja stayed there throughout the rainy season. He continued his journey on the onset of Autumn. Maharaja celebrated worship of Goddess Durga with great pomp at Jangipur. Maharaja sent back many of his accompanies to Behar. In that way after traveling through Bhagalpur, Munger, Patna and Chapda, Maharaja reached Baranasi on 28th Ashad of Bengali calendar year 1244. He stayed under the hospitality of Raja Amritrao over there. Maharaja Harendra Narayan bought land at Baranasi and started constructing temple of "Addashakti Kali". But before the construction works could be completed, Maharaja Harendra Narayan passed away in Baranasi on 16th Jaistha 1246 Bangabda (1840 A.D.). [next Maharaja](#)

**(p14)** posts of 'Sadar Amin' were created. They used look after Dewani and Fauzdari cases. Gopalmohan Majumder was appointed the first Nayeab Ahilkar. During the rule of Maharaja Shibendra Narayan his subjects lived happily.

#### **Creation of apex Appeal Court :**

In 1842 A.D. Maharaja Shibendra Narayan established the apex Appeal Court for trying Dewani,

his subjects. He used to discuss about people's needs & grievances with his high ranking officials in that sabha. He sought remedial steps for clarifying public grievances. In that way many undesired taxes were restricted/removed. New laws were made for smooth and easy collection of state revenues.

Maharaja Shibendra Narayan used to look daily after state matters for some time. After that he used to discuss religion and shastra (Hindu principles) with Brahmins & intellectuals. At evening he used to spend his time in watching & listening to dance & music. He used to provide allowance/stipends to his near ones like Rajmata, brothers and other relatives regularly. On his order Kalicharan Lahiri was appointed Session Judge. Maharaja's brother Meghendra Narayan used to judge other Fauzdari cases. At that time fresh post of 'Nayeb Ahilkar' and two [next \(p14\)](#)

**(p15)** Maharaja Shibendra Narayan married daughter of Bajradhar Karjee of Chapgur Gram and daughter of ex-Jowar Brajendra Narayan Chowdhury.

Maharaja Shibendra Narayan started ruling peacefully. His subjects lived in peace and flourished under able administration of Maharaja. Since the Maharaja was childless, he adopted Karindra Narayan, son of Shambhu Narayan of Balarampur. Karindra Narayan was then eight years old. Arrangements were made to teach Bengali and Parshi to Karindra Narayan.

In 1843 A.D. Maharaja Shibendra Narayan completed the Shiva Temple at Dhaluabari started by Maharaja Harendra Narayan. Maharaja Shibendra Narayan installed idol of 'Sidhanath Shiva' over there and donated properties for the worship. Maharaja Shibendra Narayan was handsome, stout-figured, intellectual and an able administrator. [next \(p15contd..\)](#)

Faujdari and Revenue cases. Dewan Kalicharan Lahiri and Eshanchandra Mustafi were appointed judges of that court. Maharaja himself occasionally used to chair the Judge's seat and tried cases. After discussing with judges and intellectuals he used to announce verdicts.

In the meantime arrangements were made for Maharaja's wedding. On the auspicious day of *Doi Purnima*, the marriage ceremony was carried out. All wedding arrangements of majestic nature were taken care of. Valuable ornaments and clothes were brought from Dhaka, Baranasi, Murshidabad, Kalikata and other places. Durbar hall was beautifully decorated. Manu singers and dancers arrived at the capital. On that occasion Governor General and other high ranking European officials were invited from Kalikata. British agent Mr. Jenkins also paid visit from Guwahati. Amidst glorious ceremonial celebration [next \(p15\)](#)

**(p15contd..)** He was also genius in music and dance. He composed many *Shakta* (in praise of Lord Shiva) songs. He was honest and loyal to God. In 1251 Bangabda (Bengali calendar year) Maharaja lost his adopted son Karindra Narayan. After discussing with the royal courtiers Maharaja Shibendra Narayan adopted Chandra Narayan, son of his brother Brajendra Narayan, on 29th Falgun of Bengali calendar year 1251. Chandra Narayan was renamed as Narendra Narayan. Maharaja Shibendra Narayan set off on pilgrimage to Baranasi after making appropriate security arrangements for the state. The British agent of Guwahati was informed about the arrangements. Narendra Narayan also accompanied his father-Maharaja to Baranasi. Maharaja Shibendra Narayan fell sick at Baranasi. In spite of treatment by doctors, his illness aggravated gradually and he grew weaker day-by-day. Finally he breathed his last in 1847 A.D. at Baranasi.

Next Behar King (20th Maharaja) ..... [\(next CHAPTER-5\)](#)

**Source** :- **Translated** from "**Kochbiharer Itihas**", 2nd edition (1988), by **Shri. Hemanta Kumar Rai Barma** - ex-Nayeb Ahilkar of Kochbihar estate (SDO), M.A.,B.L.) || "**Kochbihar Parikrama**" edited by **Krishnendu Dey, Niraj Biswas & Digbijoy De Sarkar**

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Other Links

[Top of Page](#)

| [Administrative Activities](#) | [Administrative Blocks](#) | [Administrative Departments](#) | [Administrative Diary](#) | [Administrative Forms](#) | [Administrative Orders](#) | [Administrative Schemes](#) | [Administrative Tenders](#) | [Agriculture](#) | [Brief History](#) | [Bus Service](#) | [Climate](#) | [Crop pattern](#) | [Culture-n-Tradition](#) | [Demography](#) | [Education](#) | [Employment](#) | [Fairs-n-Festivals](#) | [Geography](#) | [Haats](#) or [Local Market](#) | [Health](#) | [Industry/Economy](#) | [Industrial Scope](#) | [IT Awareness in CoB](#) | [Land Data Bank](#) | [Local Administration](#) |

| [Physical Infrastructure](#) | [Public Utility Information](#) | [Royal History](#) | [Social Infrastructure](#) | [Tourism - a Snapshot](#) | [Tourist Guide](#) |

|| [Feedback](#) ||

| [Train Service](#) |

|| [Advertisement](#) ||

----- **NIC Links** -----

| [NIC \(CoB\) Profile](#) | [NIC- CoB's Favourite](#) | [Data-Bank](#) || [Data-Library](#) || [Bulletin](#) | [Events](#) | [Personals](#) | [Other Centres of NIC](#) |



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[|| District Map ||](#) [|| District Block-demarcated Map ||](#) [|| Location in West Bengal ||](#)

[view in separate window](#)

[| District Profile](#)

[Data-Library](#)

[| NIC \(CoB\) Home |](#)

[| More Links at Bottom |](#)

[|| Govt. Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Important Public Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Latest News-n-Activities ||](#)

## Royal History : Book of Facts and Events

Continued after 19th Maharaja :~

CHAPTER - 5 of  
6

[Previous King\(s\)](#)

**Maharaja Narendra Narayan** [Rajshak 338-354 || Bangabda 1254-1270 || 1847-1863 A.D.] : **20th Maharaja**

(p1) When Maharaja Shibendra Narayan passed away in 1847 A.D., child Narendra Narayan was staying with his father at Baranasi. Over there he was crowned in next to his father as the Maharaja of Behar before returning back to the capital. Maharaja Narendra Narayan was then only 6 years old.

Kalichandra Lahiri was then the Dewan of Behar. After discussing with Rajmata (mother-Queens) Kamteswari and Brindeswari Devi, Dewan took Maharaja Narendra Narayan to Krishnanagar for imparting education to the Maharaja. Narendra Narayan was intelligent. Within a few days he gathered knowledge in Sanskrit grammar, literature, smriti and other subjects. After returning back to Behar he continued his studies in European style. Rajmata Kamteswari and Brindeswari Devi looked after state administration till the Maharaja reached his adulthood. In 1860 A.D. Maharaja Narendra Narayan took up state's administration in his own hand. He was an intellectual, well-judged able administrator with fine character. Under his rule Behar kingdom flourished increasing state's income to much extent and his subjects lived peacefully. [next \(p2\)](#)

**The old practice of Suttedaha (sacrificing life or self immolation of wife along with husband's corpse) was banned during Maharaja Narendra Narayan.**  
[check](#)

(p2) Maharaja Narendra Narayan had interest for education. For the first time he arranged for modern education system in Behar. He established Jenkins School in 1859 A.D. within Behar city to impart English lessons and high studies. At that time there was no High School in that region. After setting up that school students of not only Behar but of entire Uttarbanga (North of Bengal) were prized with such opportunity of high studies.

Maharaja Narendra Narayan initiated the system of stamp-paper in 1861 A.D. From then onwards use of stamp-paper came in vogue.

Maharaja Narendra Narayan constructed many broad roadways and built bridges to facilitate transportation system for people of Behar. He also took up medical arrangements for his subjects.

In 1862 A.D. Maharaja Narendra Narayan obtained a son who was named as Nripendra Narayan. But soon the Maharaja fell sick. His illness aggravated gradually in spite of the heart and soul treatment by the doctors. Maharaja

Narendra Narayan's health deteriorated day-by-day and at last he breathed his last in 1863 A.D. at a age of only 22 years. People of Behar were grief stricken at the demise of their dear King. [next \(p3\)](#)

**Maharaja Nripendra Narayan Bhupbahadur** [Rajshak 354-402 || 1863-1911 A.D.] : **21st Maharaja**

(p3) When Maharaja Narendra Narayan passed away in 1863 A.D., as per will of the Maharaja his ten month child-son Nripendra Naryan was crowned in as the next king of Behar. At first the state administration was looked after by Queen Kamteswari, Brindeswari and Nistarini Eye Devi since Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was only a child. Later the power of administration was handed over to the Commissioner appointed by the British Governor General. Colonel Hawton was appointed as the Commissioner of Behar in 1864 A.D. He was conferred complete authority to run the state administration. Colonel Hawton seriously paid attention towards education and caring of child Maharaja. Maharaja Nripendra Narayan stayed in Cooch Behar for five years. In 1868 A.D. he was sent to Baranasi for learning. There he took lessons till 1872 A.D. After that he was schooled in Patna Collegiate School for six years while staying at Bankipur. He learned riding and hunting over there. On the occasion of the crowning-in of Queen Victoria in 1877 A.D., Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was invited at the Delhi Durbar. In his respect cannons were fired 13

(p4) Italy, Germany, Austria, France, Bulgaria and other countries. He was received with royal welcome in all those foreign countries. Maharaja Nripendra Narayan returned back to Behar on 3rd March 1879 and got admitted in Presidency College to study Law. He studied Law in that College till 1881.

In 1883 A.D. Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was old enough to assume the authority of administering the state and ceremoniously he ascended the throne. Many kings and high ranking officials visited capital Behar on that occasion. Thereafter he engaged himself in state affairs.

Maharaja Nripendra Narayan banned the practice of slave-keeping ('*kritadas pratha*') by law in 1884 A.D. For higher studies in his state he established the Victoria College (now A.B.N. Seal College) in 1888. There was opportunity of studying M.A. and Law in that college under Kalikata/Calcutta University. Famous educationist and intellectual Acharya Brajendra Nath Seal was the Principal of that college.



times. In 1878 A.D. **Maharaja Nripendra Narayan married Suniti Devi**, daughter of famous Keshab Chandra Sen of Kalikata. Immediately after marriage he left for England for higher studies. There he started learning under Sir Benjamin Simson and Mr. Kelar. Thereafter he toured to [next \(p4\)](#).

**(p5)** Dharmashala (religious rest-house) & adjacent Madan Mohan Temple were constructed in the city of Cooch Behar. The present Palace in Cooch Behar city was constructed in 1887 during Maharaja Nripendra Narayan. He engaged Mr. F. Barkli as the chief engineer to construct the palace.

**Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was the architect of modern city of Cooch Behar.** As per his instructions starting from the sadar-city, other towns of the estate and the roads were constructed. He built buildings for administrative purposes like High-court, Judge-court, Treasury Commissioner Office, School Inspector Office, Police Office, S.D.O. Office, Registration Office and others. All the old beautiful buildings surrounding Sagardighi portray Maharaja's immortal building-ability. During his time Dewani, Fauzdari and Registration Laws were introduced for Behar state. Narrow gauge line (railway) was laid down between Gitaldaha (Bangladesh border in the south) and Jayanti (Bhutan border in the north). This rail-line was entirely the property of this state. After a few days that rail-line was transformed into meter-gauge line. Present temple of Madan Mohan was constructed during his time and the deity of Lord Madan-Mohan was transferred to that temple from the temple adjacent to the royal palace.

[next \(p6\)](#)

#### **(p7) Administrative Setup :-**

A Deputy Commissioner under Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was in supreme charge of all state departments. Under the Maharaja the Dewan used to look after the Revenue Department. Under the Dewan the Sub-divisional Nayeb Ahilkars used to collect revenues, carry judicial proceedings and maintain peace & security of sub-divisions. Chief employee of Faujdari department was the Faujdari Ahilkar. Under him the Nayeb Ahilkars used to look after Faujdari judicial matters of the subdivisions. District Judge was the Chief Officer of the Dewani department. Under him the Sub-divisional Nayeb Ahilkars used to try the Dewani cases. School Inspector was in charge of Education department. Under him the Sub-inspectors used to look after educational matters on the Sub-divisions. At that time there were total 329 educational institutes and a big library known as Raj Library. Civil Surgeon was in chief-charge of Health department. Under him the Assistant Surgeons maintained the Sub-divisional medical departments. There were four medical institutions. Police Superintendent was the chief of the Police department. Under him three Inspectors, ten Sub-inspectors, twenty nine Head Constables and 365 Constables used to operate. State had six thanas (police stations) and seven fandi at that time. An Engineer was in charge of the municipal department. Several Overseers used to look after municipal matters under that [next \(p8\)](#)

**Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan [Rajshak 402-404 || 1911-1913 A.D.] : 22nd Maharaja**

**(p9)** Rajendra Narayan, eldest son of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan, was born at Woodland Palace of Calcutta on 11th April 1882 A.D. During his childhood

Maharaja Nripendra Narayan constructed a Brahma Mandir (temple for the Brahmas) in 1888 A.D. and granted lease of land for 30 years. In 1883 he constructed Nripendra Narayan Hall in Jalpaiguri city and in 1887 granted land for the construction of the Lewis Jubilee Sanitarium in Darjeeling. In 1889 Anandamoyee [next \(p5\)](#).

**(p6)** British Government conferred the title of "Grand Commander of Most Eminent Order" to Maharaja Nripendra Narayan. Maharaja along with Suniti Devi visited England to attend the jubilee celebration of Queen Victoria. On that occasion Suniti Devi was conferred the title of "Imperial Order of Crown".

Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was a famous athlete. He had many best quality horses. He used to win in almost every horse race. He fought for the British in the Tarai war and Jalandabad war. In 1902 A.D. he visited London on the occasion of the crowning-in of His Majesty Seventh Edward. Maharaja Nripendra Narayan obtained his first son on 11th April 1882. His father-in-law named the child as Rajendra Narayan. On 20th December 1886 he obtained his second son Jitendra Narayan. His third son Victor Nityendra Narayan and his fourth son Hitendra Narayan were born on 21st May 1887 & 1st July 1890 respectively.

In 1886 Maharaja Nripendra Narayan constructed *pilkhana* (elephant shed) at Cooch Behar for 52 elephants. He constructed many roads, hospital and schools to cater to the service of his subjects. In the name of his queen he set up a girls school named as "Suniti College" in 1881 which was later named as "Suniti Academy". [next \(p7\)](#)

**(p8)** Chief Engineer. Many beautiful mansions were built in the Cooch Behar town at that time. There were one Telegraph Office and five Sub-Post Offices.

Maharaja Nripendra Narayan encouraged education in the state. He was affectionate towards his subjects and was a kind-hearted, noble king. He took firm steps for overall development of Cooch Behar state. His wife Maharani Suniti Devi was a good writer. She wrote an autobiography. Maharaja Nripendra Narayan also wrote some hunting-related books in English.

While administering the state so smoothly, Maharaja Nripendra Narayan fell sick in 1911 A.D. He was taken to England for treatment. Over there Maharaja Nripendra Narayan passed away on the 18<sup>th</sup> September of 1911 A.D. Since the Maharaja was a Colonel, his corpse was procession ally paraded to the crematory under royal salutation and his last rites were carried out over there.

**Next Maharaja ... (p9)**

**(p10)** present over there to carry out the last rites of his father.

he took lessons under a British female home tutor. When he was a boy of 11 years, he was sent to "Lord Mayo" college at Ratputna for studying. He was much attentive in his studies; turned out favorite to his class-mates; participated in sports. He had special inclination towards Engineering. It was of great pleasure/fun to him in playing games of fake war & capturing fort.

Maharaja Nripendra Narayan sent Rajendra Narayan to England for studying in 1894. There he got admitted to the "Preparatory" School of Mr. Castor and schooled for three years. In 1897 he got admitted to "Itan". Studying over there for three years he took admission in Oxford University in 1900 A.D. Completing his studies at Oxford, Rajendra Narayan returned back to India and helped his father in carrying out state proceedings. During that time he received military training at "Caded Core".

During the crowning-in of Emperor Edward, Rajendra Narayan accompanied his parents to England for the ceremony. There he received friendly felicitation. When Maharaja Nripendra Narayan passed away in England on 18th September 1911, Rajendra Narayan was

[next \(p10\)](#)

(p11) desire to breathe his last at Cooch Behar itself. At that time on the other hand, his younger brother Jitendra Narayan married Indira Devi, daughter of Maharaja Gaikward of Baroda, in London. Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan passed away on the midnight of 1st September 1913 A.D. His brother Victor Nityendra Narayan was with the Maharaja during his last moment. Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan's last rites were carried out in London and his corpse-ashes were brought back to and buried at Cooch Behar.

[next](#)

[Maharaja - \(p12\)](#)

### **Maharaja Jitendra Narayan Bhupbahadur [Rajshak 404-413 || 1913-1922 A.D.] : 23rd Maharaja**

(p12) Maharaja Jitendra Narayan was the second son of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan. He was born on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1886 A.D. at Cooch Behar palace. During his childhood he took lessons under British home tutor. In 1900 he left for England and got admitted to Itan School. After finishing his studies over there he took admission in Edinburgh University. He returned back to Cooch Behar after completion of his studies.

Jitendra Narayan paid visit to his ailing brother Maharaja Rajendra Narayan who was under treatment in London. At that time Maharaja of Baroda along with his daughter visited London and proposed marriage between his daughter Indira Devi and Jitendra Narayan to Rajmata Suniti Devi and Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan. With their consent Jitendra Narayan married Indira Devi at the Buckingham Palace Hotel on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1913. On the sixth day after that wedding, Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1913 A.D.

Since Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan passed away leaving back no descendant of his own, Jitendra Narayan ascended the throne of Cooch Behar in 1913. After being crowned-in Maharaja Jitendra Narayan with utmost skill started administering his state. He took firm steps for the development of the state. He treated his subjects

[next \(p13\)](#)

After his father Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan ascended the throne of Cooch Behar in 1912 A.D. He carried out proceedings as per his father's will. He was very close to his mother and heeded with great respect. During his stay in England, Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan got chest-injury while playing game and from then on he felt acute pain in his chest. That turned out to be the cause of a type of depression for the Maharaja because of which he didn't get married.

After ascending the throne Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan looked after the developments of his state. He had belief towards Brahma religion. He used to pass verdict judiciously without being partial to any side. He used to keep calm and behaved in accordance to his status/prestige. He was less conversant. Everyone respected and loved him.

Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan visited London along with Suniti Devi for medical treatment when his illness aggravated to much extent. There he received treatment under Dr. Rijin Russel. While his illness deteriorated further, Maharaja lost hope and expressed his

[next \(p11\)](#)

(p13) with great affection and likewise people of Cooch Behar also respected him very much. For the upliftment of his subjects Maharaja Jitendra Narayan worked hard. Though he received no separate lessons regarding state administration during his childhood, he used to tackle all administrative works smoothly. He established a medical institution or hospital in the name of Lord Carmichael at Cooch Behar capital.

At that time a fierce war broke out in England. Impact of that war was also felt at Cooch Behar. Rice and other food items were exported from Cooch Behar and that led to food shortage at the home-state. Price rose high. Then Maharaja Jitendra Narayan increased the salary of government employees. He also provided enough aids and grants to his subjects. He sent more helps for the war.

Maharaja Jitendra Narayan was very clever and a subject-loving king. He was a skilled hunter. His younger brother Victor respected him and helped him in royal administration. Nirupama Devi, wife of Victor, was a good writer and also respected the Maharaja. In memory of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan, a statue was built and established at the capital by Maharaja Jitendra Narayan. That statue of Maharaja Nripendra Narayan was brought from London and a beautiful portrayal of art.

[next \(p14\)](#)

### Next Maharaja - the last recognized king of "Koch" Family.

[click for Next/Last Maharajas \(24th Maharaja\)](#) > CHAPTER 6

## Arts and Literature



[|| District Map ||](#) [|| District Block-demarcated Map ||](#) [|| Location in West Bengal ||](#)

[view in separate window](#)



[| District Profile](#)

[Data-Library](#)

[|| Govt. Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Important Public Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Latest News-n-Activities ||](#)

[| NIC \(CoB\) Home |](#)

[| More Links at Bottom |](#)

## Royal History : Book of Facts and Events

Continued after 23rd Maharaja :~

CHAPTER - 6 of  
6

[Previous King\(s\)](#)

**Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan** [Rajshak 427-461 || 1936-1970 A.D.] : **24th Maharaja**

(p1) Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan was the eldest son of Maharaja Jitendra Narayan and Indira Devi. He was born on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1915 A.D. at the Cooch Behar palace. In his childhood he took lessons under home tutor. After that for higher studies he was admitted at Hehro at London in 1927. Thereafter he got admitted to Cambridge University in 1929. While studying at Hehro he attained army training.

Returning back to India he joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Indian Cavalry at Bolaram of Hyderabad and received higher army training. After that he joined the Honorary Military Training Course at Dehradun. At that time General J. N. Chowdhury, Rajendra Singh and General Kariyappa were undergoing training. Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan was the Lieutenant Colonel at that time. He was conferred the title of "K.C.I.E". He took part in the second World War in 1939 and operated as Liaganj Officer. He stayed at Rangoon, Kohima and other places during that time.

Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan ascended the throne on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1936 A.D. **The state was administered by Regency Council till he attained adulthood (i.e. from 1922 to 1936 A.D.).** Rajmata Indira Devi was the President of Regency Council. After ascending the throne Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan himself looked after state administration. He was a generous & dutiful king. [next \(p2\)](#)

(p3) he set up a medical institution in Cooch Behar. He was a famous hunter. During his time many like the Maharajas of Jaipur, Nepal & Deoyas and other high officials of Indian Government used to visit Cooch Behar in the Winter season for hunting. Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan used to be part of those hunting teams and hunt the protected forest areas of Patlakhawa, Takoamari, Gorpadi, Bhalka Shalbari for Royal Bengal Tiger, Rhinoceros and other beasts. Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan also hunted in the jungles of Assam.

Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan carried out the state administration through the State Council. He was the President of the State Council. A British Official elected by the Indian Government was the Vice President of that Council. There were different Ministers to look after the Revenue Deptt., Judicial Deptt., Education Deptt., Police Deptt., Municipal Deptt. The supreme court of appeal was the State Council. Under that there was the High Court under whom there was Judge Court. The Sub-Divisional Nayeb Ahilkars used to look after the Dewani and Faujdari cases under the Judge Court. Apart from these the Nayeb Ahilkars also

(p2) He took the help of Ministers and Judicial-bench in administering the state's proceedings. He was a disciplined king and not an anarchist. Since Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan had the mixed blood of ancient royal family of Cooch Behar and royal family of Gaikward of Baroda, he had the inherent qualities of tradition and characteristics of both the royalties. He was fond of his subjects and in order to speculate his subjects' condition used to visit the villages all alone. He fulfilled all aspirations and prayers of his subjects. During his reign once the state was struck with severe drought. That year he slackened people revenues to much extent. During his time Bengal was starved with natural calamity due to the second World War in 1940. Thousands of people died of starvation during that time. But while such calamity was yet to strike Cooch Behar at that time, due to good administration under Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan there was sufficient supply of food, clothing and other items in the state. At that time Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan helped by supplying three lakh Mons (1 Mon=40 Kgs) of rice to Bengal.

Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan was a good sportsman. He was the captain of the Calcutta Team in the match between Calcutta Cricket Team and Indore Cricket Team held in 1943. He was very good in the game of Polo. In memory of his father Maharaja Jitendra Narayan [next \(p3\)](#)

(p4) Maharaja himself was the Super of the State Military Department which had two branches namely State Infantry and Narayan Guard.

Price of paddy, rice and other items declined in 1945 during the rule of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan. Price of paddy was Rs. 6 per Mon, rice @ Rs. 13 per Mon, mustard oil @ 6 Annas (≈ 36 new Paisa) per Ser/Kg, ghee @ Re. 1||. per Ser, mutton @ Rs. 2||. per animal, each Hilsha fish @ 6 Annas, Ruhi fish @ approx. Rs. 3 per piece & ||. Anna per Ser, cloth @ Re. 1 & 12 Annas, bull @ Rs. 25 and cow @ Rs. 20. Peace prevailed during the rule of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan. The land hardly witnessed theft, dacoity, murder and other anti-social activities. At that time people could have sound sleep keeping their doors wide open. **In 1956 Maharaja married Geogina May Narayan in England.** She was a British lady and educated in History at the Cambridge University. Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan obtained no child.

During Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan there was wide spread struggle for Independence not only in



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next (p4)
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next (p6)

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next (p5)

next (p7)

Moreover they were offered grants and aids at need-felt situations. During natural catastrophe no subject used to die of starvation in this state. People of Cooch Behar respected the Maharajas very much and were ever loyal to the royalty. Glimpses of those golden royal days could be comprehended from the senior citizens of Cooch Behar who have passed through that age and feel ever-jubilant while recalling about the kingship and royal stories.



**Source :- Translated** from "**Kochbiharer Itihas**", 2nd edition (1988), **by Shri. Hemanta Kumar Rai Barma**  
- ex-Nayeb Ahilkar of Kochbihar estate (SDO), M.A.,B.L.) || "**Kochbihar Parikrama**" edited **by Krishnendu Dey,**  
**Niraj Biswas & Digbijoy De Sarkar**

[Back to First Maharaja \(1st Maharaja\)](#) > CHAPTER 1

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## Image Gallery.

**Present member of the Royal family.**

### Truce with East India Company

### Some more Important Facts

## Arts and Literature



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## Other Links

[Top of Page](#)

[Administrative Activities](#) | [Administrative Blocks](#) | [Administrative Departments](#) | [Administrative Diary](#) | [Administrative Forms](#) | [Administrative Orders](#) | [Administrative Schemes](#) | [Administrative Tenders](#) | [Agriculture](#) | [Brief History](#) | [Bus Service](#) | [Climate](#)

[Crop pattern](#)	[Culture-n-Tradition](#)	[Demography](#)	[Education](#)	[Employment](#)	[Fairs-n-Festivals](#)	[Geography](#)	[Haats](#) or [Local Market](#)	
[Health](#)	[Industry/Economy](#)	[Industrial Scope](#)	[IT Awareness in CoB](#)	[Land Data Bank](#)	[Local Administration](#)			
[Physical Infrastructure](#)	[Public Utility Information](#)	[Royal History](#)	[Social Infrastructure](#)	[Tourism - a Snapshot](#)	[Tourist Guide](#)			
	[Feedback](#)			[Train Service](#)			[Advertisement](#)	
----- **NIC Links** -----								
[NIC \(CoB\) Profile](#)	[NIC- CoB's Favourite](#)	[Data-Bank](#)		[Data-Library](#)		[Bulletin](#)	[Events](#)	[Personals](#)

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[view in separte window](#)

[| District Profile](#)

[Data-Library](#)

[| NIC \(CoB\) Home |](#)

[| More Links at Bottom |](#)

[|| Govt. Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Important Public Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Latest News-n-Activities ||](#)

## Royal History : [some Important Letters](#)

### on Bann of "Suttee"

Raja Rammohan was one of the pioneers who came forward strongly protesting for condemnation of the age-long superstitious practice of "Suttee" in Bengal. On 4th July 1829 law was passed banning the rite of "Suttee". But in reality the rite still continued. It was the year 1840, Maharaja Shibendra Narayan was then enthroned in Coochbehar, a Brahmin resident of Khagrabari, named Srikanta Siromoni, died on 22nd February. His wife sacrificed herself as *Suttee*. A lawyer named Sri Sandunarayan Gupta intimated to the Company Commissioner about the incident. The Maharaja was asked in a letter for explanation by the Commissioner's Office.

Cornel Jenkins was then in charge as Governor General of Cooch Behar. He met Maharaja Shibendra Narayan to stop this practice of *Suttee*. Moreover, there were pressures from different quarters demanding direct interference of the governor general in banning this rite. Cornel Jenkins succeeded in his endeavor after 9 years at a stretch in 1849. Maharaja Shibendra Narayan had passed away by that time. His infant son Narendra Narayan was then on the throne. On 20th September, 1849 the Under Secretary of then Bengal Government wrote to Cornel Jenkins from Fort William, banning the practice of Suttee. The following letter illustrates that historic event :-

No. 102 of 1849

Dated, Fortwilliam,  
the 20th September 1849

To

Major Jenkins,  
Agent to the Governor General,  
North East Frontier.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 64, dated the 30th ultimo, I am directed to request that you will convey to the Sarbarakar of Cooch Behar intimation of the pleasure of Government, that performance of the rite of Suttee be altogether prohibited in future in the Territories of the Rajah of Cooch Behar.

You are requested to report, if these orders of Government are carried into effect by the Sarbarakar.

I have & C ,  
(Sd.) W. SETON-KARR  
Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

### on Micheal Madhusudan's Application for Post of Magistrate

Michael Madhusudan at that time introduced a new era in Bengali literature. But he was running in acute financial crisis. He was then engaged at Kolkata Police Court to earn his living. Maharaja Narendra Narayan was then in charge of Cooch Behar.

Need was felt for an experienced Magistrate, for which advertisement was published in "Englishman" daily. In response to that advertisement, Michael Madhusudan Dutta applied before the Maharaja. The following application illustrates that historic event :-

Calcutta Police  
27th January, 1860

My dear Raja Saheb,

I see an advertisement in the 'Englishman' in which your Highness wants a Magistrate. Allow me to offer my service to you. Your Highness knows that I have been for several years connected with the Calcutta Police and understand criminal matters pretty well. If the salary be worth accepting that is to say, if it be worthy of a Prince like your Highness to offer and a gentleman like myself to accept, pray, write to me and I shall go up. Your Highness must know that I shall have to sacrifice my prospects here if I go up to your country and the offer must be tempting enough to induce me to do so. I shall undertake to give you such a Police Establishment

throughout your principality in one year that your Highness will win praise of the British Government. Your Highness must also appraise me on your Princely word that I am not to be turned out at a moment's notice to gratify the hatred of some unprincipled Court-intrigues. Your Highness no doubt knows that such an important post must not be given to any but a gentleman of education and principle and that no gentleman of education and principal will accept such a situation but on very liberal terms.

With Kind wishes.

Michael M. S. Dutt  
27th January, 60  
A candidate for the Vacant Magistracy

Your Highness's very sincerely,  
Michael M. S. Dutt

## on Indian Freedom from British Rule

12th August, 1947

India was then on the verge of a new era - Independence from two decades of British Rule. Maharaja Jagaddipendra Naryan of Cooch Behar with deep gratitude conveyed his cordial greetings to Sardar Vallav Bhai Patel.

The Palace  
Cooch Behar  
12th August, 1947

My dear Sardar Patel,

On this great and historic day of Indian Independence, which you have contributed in no small measure to bring about, I send to you on my behalf an on behalf of Cooch Behar most cordial greetings.

The apprehension of most Indian States were, as you know, the natural outcome of the feeling that by sheer weight of population the provinces may submerge and swamp them. The Policy of fair play and sympathetic understanding which you have initiated towards the States is, if I may say so, a very happy augury for the future of our country. The ready response that Policy has evoked from a very large body of Rulers is proof of its signal success.

The country surely needs peace and we all wish it to prosper and you can count upon my whole hearted co-operation and my very best wishes in the prosecution of any Policy that you may think it necessary to adopt for the restoration of peace and for the eradication of poverty.

Yours sincerely,  
Jagaddipendra Narayan  
Maharaja of Cooch Behar

( Reference : Sarder Patel's Correspondence, Vol. 5, Letter No. 469 - page 436 )

Sardar Vallav Bhai Patel in his reply to Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan.

New Delhi  
17th August, 1947

My dear Maharaja Sahib,

Many thanks for your very kind letter of greetings and wishes on Independence Day. I am more than satisfied with the good response which may appeal to the Rulers of States to join the Dominion has met. I myself had no doubt that approached in the right way the Princes would mostly respond to the country's cause.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking your Highness for so readily agreeing to accede to the Indian Dominion along with Assam and West Bengal. Your State occupies a difficult position, but I have no doubt that in concert and unity we shall be able to meet all eventualities.

Lieutenant His Highness  
Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan,  
Maharaja of Cooch Behar,  
Cooch Behar

Yours sincerely,  
Vallabhchai Patel



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[Important Letters](#)

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[Present member of the Royal family](#)

[Truce with East India Company](#)

[Some more Important Facts](#)

[Arts and Literature](#)



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Other Links

[Top of Page](#)

[Administrative Activities](#)	[Administrative Blocks](#)	[Administrative Departments](#)	[Administrative Diary](#)	[Administrative Forms](#)			
[Administrative Orders](#)	[Administrative Schemes](#)	[Administrative Tenders](#)	[Agriculture](#)	[Brief History](#)	[Bus Service](#)	[Climate](#)	
[Crop pattern](#)	[Culture-n-Tradition](#)	[Demography](#)	[Education](#)	[Employment](#)	[Fairs-n-Festivals](#)	[Geography](#)	[Haats](#) or [Local Market](#)

| [Health](#) | [Industry/Economy](#) | [Industrial Scope](#) | [IT Awareness in CoB](#) | [Land Data Bank](#) | [Local Administration](#) |  
 | [Physical Infrastructure](#) | [Public Utility Information](#) | [Royal History](#) | [Social Infrastructure](#) | [Tourism - a Snapshot](#) | [Tourist Guide](#) |

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[NIC \(CoB\) Home](#) 

[More Links at Bottom](#)

[|| Govt. Phone nos. ||](#) [Important Public Phone nos. ||](#) [Latest News-n-Activities ||](#)

## Language & ancient Literature

(p1) Language of ancient Coochbehar along with that of North Bengal as well as of Rajbansi sect originated from Sanskrit. Use of original Sanskrit words and adaptations could be traced in the language.

Apart from ancient **Rajbansi-Kshatriya**, **Khyen (Sen)**, **Kurisajjan (Modak)** and others, people belonging to sects like **Koch**, **Rava**, **Mech** and **Garó** - all from Mongolian clusters, are residing in this region from ancient time.

### Myths about origin of **Koch** language & culture :

Four brothers namely Koche, Meche, Limbu and Lepche used to stay in the Bhutan mountains. In confrontation with other sects residing over there, the four brothers descended to the plains. Koche & Meche left behind signs of identification for the younger brothers. But the other two brothers took on the wrong track and traveled elsewhere. At the plains eldest brother Koche started living in the region between the [\(next p2\)](#)

### (p2) Myths continued ...

rivers of Sankosh and Raidak near Bhutan Ghat. That region of settlement comprised of present North-eastern part of Jalpaiguri district and North-western part of Assam. Later the Koch spread out in other places. At present the Koch used to reside mainly in the south-western part of Garo mountains, Goalapara and Alipurduar regions. The Koch do not reside in Cooch Behar district.

According to another myth the Koch used to stay previously at "Both Hachu" or Both mountain of Bhutan. After battle with Bhutias they shifted to Baukumari mountain on the east of Kokrajhar in Assam and started residing over there. The capital of the established state was "Kochranagar". Presently the Ravas also claim to belong to Koch sect. The Koch are divided into Owana (2b continued ....)

**Source** :- **Translated** from "**Kochbiharer Itihas**", 2nd edition (1988), by **Shri. Hemanta Kumar Rai Barma** - ex-Nayeb Ahilkar of Kochbihar estate (SDO), M.A.,B.L.)

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[History Book](#)

[Important Letters](#)

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[Koch kingdom & Muslim strength](#)

[Image Gallery](#)

[Present member of the Royal family](#)

[Truce with East India Company](#)

[Some more Important Facts](#)

[Arts and Literature](#)



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### Other Links

[Top of Page](#)

[Administrative Activities](#) | [Administrative Blocks](#) | [Administrative Departments](#) | [Administrative Diary](#) | [Administrative Forms](#) | [Administrative Orders](#) | [Administrative Schemes](#) | [Administrative Tenders](#) | [Agriculture](#) | [Brief History](#) | [Bus Service](#) | [Climate](#) | [Crop pattern](#) | [Culture-n-Tradition](#) | [Demography](#) | [Education](#) | [Employment](#) | [Fairs-n-Festivals](#) | [Geography](#) | [Haats](#) or [Local Market](#)

| [Health](#) | [Industry/Economy](#) | [Industrial Scope](#) | [IT Awareness in CoB](#) | [Land Data Bank](#) | [Local Administration](#) | [Physical Infrastructure](#) | [Public Utility Information](#) | [Royal History](#) | [Social Infrastructure](#) | [Tourism - a Snapshot](#) | [Tourist Guide](#)

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## Narayani Currency

(p1) When from use of currency came in vogue in the ancient Pragjyotispur or Kamrup is not exactly known. Emperor Samudragupta, Kings of Hun dynasty, Pal & Sen dynasties ruled over Kamrup over decades. But no currency belonging to their age was discovered in this region. A few coins were discovered in 1863 A.D. near Gosanimari Kasteswari Temple contained within ancient kingdom of Kamtapur. Of them currency belonging to Hosen Shah and Pathan Sultan of Delhi were identified. But no currency of King Nilambar of Kamtapur could be traced.



Silver Coin of  
Maharaja Nara Narayan

Maharaja Viswa Singha became the king of Kamtapur after Nilambar. But there is no trace of Maharaja's currency. He was descended by **Maharaja Nara Narayan**. Few silver coins of his time (1554 - 1587 A.D.) has been discovered. Some of those coins have been kept at the Asiatic Society of Kolkata and some are present at the royal palace of Cooch Behar.



front side of Maharaja Nara Narayan's coin >

Coins issued by **Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan (1587 - 1621 A.D.)** have also been discovered. Some of those silver coins are kept at the British Museum, Royal Palace of Cooch Behar, Cooch Behar Treasury, Sahitya Sabha of Cooch Behar, Shilong Cabinet and Bangiya Sahitya Parishad.



preview of Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan's coin >

Apart from this few coins of Maharaja Pran Narayan have been preserved at the Sahitya Sabha & Treasury of Cooch Behar, British Museum and Shilong Cabinet. One quarter of a coin issued by Maharaja Basudev Narayan has been kept at the Cooch Behar Treasury. Coins issued by Maharaja Rup Narayan, Maharaja Upendra Narayan and Maharaja Debendra Narayan have been preserved at the royal palace and treasury of Cooch Behar. The inscriptions on those coins are in **Debnagari** script. Coins of Maharaja Shibendra Narayan bear modern **Bengali** script. Reverse side of those coins bear scripts in **Maithili**. Total eleven golden coins of Maharaja Shibendra Narayan are preserved at the Cooch Behar palace & treasury. Coins belonging to Maharaja Narendra Narayan, Nripendra Narayan, Raj Rajendra Narayan and Jagaddipendra Narayan have also been preserved at the Treasury. Coins of Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan bear the seal of lion and elephant - the royal emblem, along with the word "Jatodharmatostoe Joy" in Bengali script. Prior to him the coins of all previous kings bore the name of Shiva (Hindu God). [next \(p2\)](#)

(p2) The currency of the Koch Kings were named as "Narayani" after the royal surname "Narayan" of the dynasty. Those currency were in vogue in entire North Bengal including states of Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim and Assam. In 1773 A.D., when princely state of Cooch Behar was transformed into a friendly state of the British, about 40 - 50 thousand Narayani silver coins used to be issued in the village of Takagachh under the "Bhandar Thakur". While entering into agreement with East India Company, Maharaja of Cooch Behar tried to retain the power/authority to issue currency in His name. In 1774 A.D. Governor General and Revenue Council notified ban on acceptance of Narayani currency. At that time in Rangpur region use of Sikka, Narayani, Parsi, Arkot currency were in practice. Finally during the time of minor Maharaja Harendra Narayan British officials totally stopped the use of Narayani currency. After that on 27th December 1845 A.D. Indian Government commanded the British Agent to shut down the mint at Cooch Behar. In 1866 British Government made it mandatory by law to use its own issued currency. ~ End ~

**Source :-** **Translated** from "**Kochbiharer Itihas**", 2nd edition (1988), by **Shri. Hemanta Kumar Rai Barma**  
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[Administrative Orders](#) | [Administrative Schemes](#) | [Administrative Tenders](#) | [Agriculture](#) | [Brief History](#) | [Bus Service](#) | [Climate](#) |  
[Crop pattern](#) | [Culture-n-Tradition](#) | [Demography](#) | [Education](#) | [Employment](#) | [Fairs-n-Festivals](#) | [Geography](#) | [Haats or Local Market](#) |  
[Health](#) | [Industry/Economy](#) | [Industrial Scope](#) | [IT Awareness in CoB](#) | [Land Data Bank](#) | [Local Administration](#) |  
[Physical Infrastructure](#) | [Public Utility Information](#) | [Royal History](#) | [Social Infrastructure](#) | [Tourism - a Snapshot](#) | [Tourist Guide](#) |  
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[| More Links at Bottom](#)

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## Royal History : Koch dynasty & Muslim strength

*lets start from 1472 A.D. - year of establishment of Behar kingdom*

CHAPTER - 1 of 1

(p1) At that time (1470 - 1486 A.D.) Nasiruddin belonging to the Ilias Shahi dynasty was ruling Bangadesh and Kamrup. He was succeeded by Habsi (1486 - 1493 A.D.). During this period **Maharaja Chandan** defeated Turukh Kotwal and his soldiers and established the kingdom of Behar in 1472 A.D. Thus the Behar kingdom was established defeating Muslim strength and was ever busy repressing continued Muslim infliction.

**Maharaja Viswa Singha** was a valiant ruler. Muslims attacked the kingdom many times during his rule. In 1532 A.D. Turukh Khan was defeated while invading Kamrup. At that time Nasrath Shah, king of Gour, attacked the kingdom but was defeated. Maharaja Viswa Singha won over Kamtapur from the Muslim strength and incorporated within his kingdom. He rebuilt the temple of Goddess Gosanimari which was destroyed by Hossain Shah. [next \(p2\)](#)

(p3) During the rule of **Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan** Akbar's army commander invaded Behar. He captured the portion of Gour under Lakshmi Narayan and adjoining many lands. Maharaja Lakshmi Narayan waged war against him but could not defeat the Mughal power. At last Maharaja visited Delhi and having met Jahangir, the then Badshah, entered into an agreement which stated that neither of the two forces would invade the respective kingdoms.

It was then the turn of **Maharaja Pran Narayan** (1626 - 1665 A.D.) to fight the Mughals. Taking advantage of the inner conflict at the Mughal camp concerning the succession to the throne of Delhi between Aurangzeb and his brothers, Maharaja Pran Narayan captured Ghoraghat - the center of Mughal power in that part. In 1661 A.D. he also captured Dhaka, capital of Bangadesh. After enthroning the throne, Badshah Aurangzeb sent his army commander Mirzumla to recover the lost territories. Mirzumla reoccupied Dhaka, Ghoraghat and other regions. Having occupied few regions of Behar, he left for his expedition to Assam. Then Maharaja Pran Narayan regained the lost regions from the clutches of Mughal power. During his time southern border of Behar kingdom was extended upto Tajhat of Rangpur and Baharband Pargana. [next \(p4\)](#)

(p5) Ebadant Khan established two market places at Nababganj and Mahiganj about 8 miles to the north of that Zamindari. After that on capturing Chakla Kakina he set up a Hat (local marketplace) at the northern border. That Hat was named as Mughalhat. Ebadant Khan could not proceed further to the north of Mughalhat. Maharaja Mahendra Narayan expelled him from there.

(p2) **Maharaja Nara Narayan** invaded Gour two times. He helped Delhi Sultan Akbar during the invasion against Gourpasha. In that battle Gourpasha was defeated. Maharaja Nara Narayan got hold of Rajmahal, Ghoraghat and eastern part of Gour kingdom while Akbar retained the western part of Gour. In this way defeating the Muslim strength Maharaja Nara Narayan captured the lands from Trihut - Rajmahal within Bihar to Ghoraghat in the south, north-eastern side to south-eastern side of Moimansingh, Manipur - Tripura till the bank of the sea, entire Assam in the east and Tibet in the north. This laid the boundaries of a vast empire whose sole emperor or "*Raj Chakraborty*" was Maharaja Nara Narayan. About ten Kings used to pay revenues under him. During his rule Ishakhan, Barbhuiyan of Bangadesh, invaded the kingdom but was defeated by Maharaja Nara Narayan. [next \(p3\)](#)

(p4) During the **Subedari of Soleman**, son of Badshah Shahjahan, (1659 A.D.) many portions of Behar kingdom was incorporated in the Mughal *Seresta*. It is not known exactly which parts of Behar were under Mughal subjugation. From the said *Seresta* it is also known that during that time entire Bangadesh was divided into 34 *Sarkars* and 1350 *Parganas*. "Behar Sarkar" was one of those *Sarkars*. Behar Sarkar consisted of 246 Parganas and contributed an annual revenue of Rs.3,27,794. The north-eastern part of Bangadesh which was under the Moghals came under Behar Sarkar. Behar Sarkar comprised of present Rangpur district and major portions of ancient Fakir Mundir Zamindari. The Sarkar of Bangalbhumii comprised of Mughal infested Baharband & Bhitirband Parganas and was once under ancient Behar kingdom. That part consisted of Ghoraghat Sarkar, Purnia Sarkar, Tajpur Sarkar and Punjab Sarkar which were all portions of Behar acquired by the Mughals.

In 1687 A.D. during the rule of **Maharaja Mahendra Narayan** Behar was invaded by Ebadant Khan, Mughal Faujdar of Ghoraghat. It is said that a pond was dug fast at the place where Ebadant Khan camped. In that respect the pond was named as Sadya Puskarini. There was a *Zamidari* known as Rangpur Sadya Puskarini. [next \(p5\)](#)

(p6) Karjeehat (Nilfamari Sub-division) Chaklas. Fatehpur Chakla was later divided into Fatehpur, Bamandanga, Manthana, Panga & Ghorialdanga Zamindaris. Karjeehat Chakla also got divided into Karjirhat, Mahipur, Tushbhandar, Tepa & Dimla Zamindaris. But again the Mughals betrayed the signed-treaty and reoccupied Boda, Patgram and east-Chakla. Later in a new agreement Maharaja of Coochbehar took *Ezara* of those three regions in the

In that way a long drawn strife continued between the Mughal power and the Maharajas of Cooch Behar. At last a treaty was met upon between the two parties. According to that agreement areas like Boda, Patgram and eastern part of Chakla was incorporated within the Coochbehar kingdom while the Mughals owned Fatehpur, Kakina & [next \(p6\)](#)

name of his own Chatranajir Shanta Narayan. After that in 1765 A.D. those three Chaklas came under the jurisdiction of East India Company and Maharaja of Coochbehar was granted *Sanad* (lease) of those lands subject to payment of revenues from those Chaklas.

- End -

**Source** :- **Translated** from "**Kochbiharer Itihas**", 2nd edition (1988), by **Shri. Hemanta Kumar Rai Barma**  
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[Truce with East India Company](#)

[Some more Important Facts](#)

[Arts and Literature](#)



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Other Links

[Top of Page](#)

[Administrative Activities](#)	[Administrative Blocks](#)	[Administrative Departments](#)	[Administrative Diary](#)	[Administrative Forms](#)			
[Administrative Orders](#)	[Administrative Schemes](#)	[Administrative Tenders](#)	[Agriculture](#)	[Brief History](#)	[Bus Service](#)	[Climate](#)	
[Crop pattern](#)	[Culture-n-Tradition](#)	[Demography](#)	[Education](#)	[Employment](#)	[Fairs-n-Festivals](#)	[Geography](#)	[Haats](#) or [Local Market](#)

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[Data-Library](#)

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[| More Links at Bottom](#)

[|| Govt. Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Important Public Phone nos. ||](#) [|| Latest News-n-Activities ||](#)

## Royal History : Truce with East India Company

In 1772 Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan, the ruler of Behar was imprisoned by the king of Bhutan. In 1773, Maharaja Dharendra Narayan took shelter in Rangpur of Panga and asked for help from the Agent of East India Company over

there. Thereupon a treaty was signed with the East India Company. With this treaty the State of Behar became a friendly counterpart of the British. The following letter illustrates that historic event :-

Dharendra Narayan, Raja of Cooch Behar having represented to the Honourable the President and Council of Calcutta the present distressed state of things of the country, owing to its being harassed by the neighboring Rajas, who are in league to dispose him, the Honourable President and Council from love of justice and desire of assisting the distressed have agreed to send a force, consisting of four companies of Sepoys and a field-peice for the protection of the said Raja and his country against his enemies and the following conditions are mutually agreed to :-

**1st** :- That the said Raja will immediately pay into the hands of the Collector of Rongpur Rs. 50,000 to defray the expenses of the force sent to assist him.

**2nd** :- That if more than Rs. 50,000 are expended, the Raja make it good to the Honourable the English East India Company, but in case any part of it remains unexpended it be delivered back.

**3rd** :- That the Raja will acknowledge subjection to the English East India Company upon his country being cleared of his enemies and will allow the Cooch Behar country to be annexed to the Province of Bengal.

**4th** :- That the Raja further agrees to make over the English East India Company one-half of the annual revenue of Cooch Behar for ever.

**5th** :- That the other moiety shall remain to raja and his heirs for ever, provided he is firm in his allegiance to the Honourable United East India Company.

**6th** :- That in order to ascertain the value of Cooch Behar country, the Raja will deliver a fair *Hastabud* of his didtrict into the hands of such persons as the Honourable the President and the Council of Calcutta shall think proper to depute for that purpose, upon which the valuation of annual *Malguzari* which the Raja is to pay, shall be established.

**7th** :- That the amount of *Malguzari* settled by such person of the Honourable the East India Company shall depute, shall be perpetual.

**8th** :- That the Honourable East India Company shall always assist the Raja with a force when he has occasion for it for the defense of the country, the Raja bearing the expenses.

**9th** :- That this treaty shall remain in force for the space of two years, or till such time as advices may be received from the Council to rectify the same for ever.

This treaty signed, sealed and concluded by the Honourable the President and council at Fort William, the fifth day of April, 1773, on one part and by Dharendra Narayan, Raja of Cooch Behar at Behar Fort, the 6th Magh 1179 Bengali Style, on the other hand.

In 1774 the king of Bhutan signed treaty with East India Company after losing to them. Maharaja Dhairjendra Narayan was set free. Having heard of the treaty with the

Company in seeking British help at time of distress, the Maharaja was much disheartened having lost its independence.

**also check out Cooch Behar Merger Agreement**

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**Truce with East India Company**

**Some more Important Facts**  
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[Administrative Activities](#)	[Administrative Blocks](#)	[Administrative Departments](#)	[Administrative Diary](#)	[Administrative Forms](#)				
[Administrative Orders](#)	[Administrative Schemes](#)	[Administrative Tenders](#)	[Agriculture](#)	[Brief History](#)	[Bus Service](#)	[Climate](#)		
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## Royal History : Some Statements/ Facts

### Cooch Behar Merger Agreement

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947, it was the birth of an independent India and Pakistan, free from two decades of Colonial Rule. Question arose regarding which nation the State of Cooch Behar will cede to. On the **28<sup>th</sup> of August 1949** an agreement was contracted between the Governor-General of India and His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, which came to be known as the **Cooch Behar Merger Agreement**, in which His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar ceded to the Dominion Government (Govt. of India) -

"full and extensive authority, jurisdiction and powers for and in relation to the governance of the State" and agreed "to transfer the administration of the State to the Dominion Government on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1949." It was stipulated that from the **12<sup>th</sup> September, 1949** the Government of India would be competent to govern the State in such a manner and through such agency as it might think fit. Following is the extract of that Cooch Behar Merger Agreement :-

#### **Cooch Behar Merger Agreement :**

Agreement made this twenty eighth day of August 1949 between the Governor General of India and His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar.

Whereas in the best interests of the State of Cooch Behar as well as of the Dominion of India it is desirable to provide for the administration of the said State by or under the authority of the Dominion Government :

It is hereby agreed as follows :~

#### **Article - 1 :-**

His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar hereby cedes to the Dominion Government full and exclusive authority, jurisdiction and powers for and in relation to the governance of the State and agrees to transfer the administration of the State to the Dominion Government on the 12th day of September 1949 (hereinafter referred to as 'the said day').

As from the said day the Dominion Government will be competent to exercise the said powers, authority and jurisdiction in such manner and through such agency as it may think fit.

#### **Article - 2 :-**

His Highness the Maharaja shall continue to enjoy the same personal rights, privileges, dignities and titles which he would have enjoyed had this agreement not been made.

#### **Article - 3 :-**

His Highness the Maharaja shall with effect from the said day be entitled to receive for his lifetime from the revenues of the State annually for his privy purse the sum of Rupees eight lakhs fifty thousand free of all taxes. After him the privy parts will be fixed at Rupees seven lakhs only. this amount is intended to cover all the expenses of the Ruler and his family, including expenses on account of his personal staff, maintenance of his residences, marriages and other ceremonies, etc., and will neither be increased nor reduced for any reason whatsoever.

The Government of India undertakes the said sum of Rupees eight lakhs fifty thousand shall be paid to His Highness the Maharaja in four equal installments in advance at the beginning of each quarter from the State Treasury or at such Treasury as may be specified by the Government of India.

#### **Article - 4 :-**

His Highness the Maharaja shall be entitled to the full ownership, use and enjoyment of all private properties (as distinct from State properties) belonging to him on the date of this agreement.

His Highness the Maharaja will furnish to the Dominion Government before the 15th September 1949, an inventory of all the immovable property, securities and cash balances held by him as such private property.

If any dispute arises as to whether any item of property is the private property of His Highness the Maharaja or State property, it shall be referred to a Judicial Officer qualified to be appointed as High Court Judge, and the decision of that Officer shall be final and binding on both parties.

**Article - 5 :-**

All the members of His Highness' family shall be entitled to all the personal privileges, dignities and titles enjoyed by them whether within or outside the territories of the State, immediately before the 15th day of August 1947.

**Article - 6 :-**

The Dominion Government guarantees the succession, according to law and custom, to the *Gaddi* of the State and to His Highness the Maharaja's personal rights, privileges, dignities and titles.

**Article - 7 :-**

No enquiry shall be made by or under the authority of the Government of India, and no proceedings shall lie in any court in Cooch Behar against His Highness the Maharaja, whether in a personal capacity or otherwise, in respect of anything done or omitted to be done by him or under his authority during the period of his administration of that State.

**Article - 8 :-**

(i) The Government of India hereby guarantees either the continuants in service of the permanent members of the public services of Cooch Behar on conditions which will be not less advantageous than those on which they were serving before the date on which the administration of Cooch Behar is made over to the Government of India or the payment of reasonable compensation.

(ii) The Government of India further guarantees the continuance of pensions and leave salaries sanctioned by His Highness the Maharaja to servants of the State who have retired or proceed on leave preparatory to retirement, before the date on which the administration of Cooch Behar is made over to the Government of India.

**Article - 9 :-**

Except with the previous sanction of the Government of India no proceedings, civil and criminal, shall be instituted against any person in respect of any act done or purporting to be done in the execution of his duties as a servant of the State before the day on which the administration is made over to the Government of India.

In confirmation whereof Mr. Vapal Pangunni Menon, Advisor to the Govt. of India in the Ministry of States has appended his signature on behalf and with the authority of the Governor General of India and Lieutenant Colonel His Highness the Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, Maharaja of Cooch Behar, has appended his signature on behalf of himself, his heirs and successors.

**Jagaddipendra Narayan**  
Maharaja of Cooch Behar

**V. P. Menon**  
Advisor to the Govt. of India  
Ministry of States

## Farewell Notes of Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan

At the juncture of this merger, the Maharaja was deeply felt. People of Cooch Behar had also to bear this end of the

Royalty. Maharaja Jagaddipendra Narayan bade farewell to his beloved people in the following way :

On this solemn occasion which marks the end of long and happy association, my mother and I send you our very best wishes, my beloved people.

Wherever we may be, we shall never forget you, your loyalty, and your devotion, we hope you will always maintain the peace, goodwill and harmony which has been our common heritage.

We shall always watch with keen interest your moral and material welfare and always pray for your happiness and prosperity.

May God Almighty bless you all

## What followed next - Assimilation

Between the 12<sup>th</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> December 1949, Cooch Behar was known as a Chief Commissioner's Province in the Government of India under a Chief Commissioner. When the Government of the State passed into the hands of the Government of India there was a series of discussions between the Union Government, the West Bengal Government and the Government of Assam, in which the wishes of the people of Cooch Behar were taken into account, and the Government of India reached the conclusion that the best interests of the people of -

Cooch Behar and of India as a whole would be served by the merger of Cooch Behar in the province of West Bengal. This was done with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1950, by means of an order under S. 290(a) of the Government of India Act of 1935. Almost immediately the Government of West Bengal enacted an Act, called the Cooch Behar (**Assimilation of State Laws**) Act in 1950, in which the following Acts, contained in the first schedule, were assimilated to the laws of the State of West Bengal. :-

### The Cooch Behar ( **Assimilation of State Laws** ) Act, 1950

#### SCHEDULE 1

- (1) The Cooch Behar Village Choukidari Act, 1893 (Cooch Behar Act III of 1893).
- (2) The Cooch Behar Cess Act, 1893 (Cooch Behar Act V of 1893).
- (3) The Cooch Behar Revenue Sales Act, 1897 (Cooch Behar Act V of 1897)
- (4) The Kist Act, Cooch Behar, 1898 (Cooch Behar Act I of 1898).
- (5) The Cooch Behar Town Committee Act of 1903 (Cooch Behar Act IV of 1903).
- (6) The Cooch Behar Tenancy Act, 1910 (Cooch Behar Act V of 1910).
- (7) The Cooch Behar Municipal Act, 1944 (Cooch Behar Act III of 1944).

Further enactments followed, and now most laws of the State of West Bengal are common to the district of Cooch Behar. Cooch Behar was declared a district of the State of West Bengal with effect from the 1st January 1950, and the District Officer came to be gazetted as Deputy Commissioner of Cooch Behar, on the analogy of the -

designation of District Officers of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. The Deputy Commissioner is re-notified as the District Magistrate of Cooch Behar, every time a fresh appointment is made. The following notifications are mentioned regarding the constitution of the Chief Commissioner's province of Cooch Behar into a district in West Bengal :

**Notification No. 3509GA, dated 01/01/1950** regarding constitution of the Chief Commissioner's Province of Cooch Behar into a district in West Bengal with police stations as follows :

(1) Kotwali, (2) Dinhata, (3) Sitai, (4) Tufanganj, (5) Mathabhanga, (6) Sitalkuchi, (7) Mekliganj and (8) Haldibari.

**Notification No. 3549GA, dated 01/01/1950** regarding division of the district of Cooch Behar into following subdivisions namely :

(1) Cooch Behar Sadar, (2) Dinhata, (3) Mathabhanga, (4) Tufanganj and (5) Mekliganj.

**Notification Nos. 9P1 to 16P1, dated 01/01/1950** regarding formation of police stations Sitalkuchi, Mekliganj, Haldibari, Kotwali, Dinhata, Sitai, Tufanganj and Mathabhanga in the District of Cooch Behar.

**Notification No. 7018J, dated 01/01/1950** regarding formation of subdivisions as detailed below :

- (1) Subdivision Cooch Behar with P.S. Kotwali;
- (2) Subdivision Dinhata with
  - (a) P.S. Dinhata and
  - (b) P.S. Sitai;
- (3) Subdivision Tufanganj with P.S. Tufanganj;
- (4) Subdivision Mathabhanga with
  - (a) P.S. Mathabhanga and
  - (b) P.S. Sitalkuchi;
- (5) Subdivision Mekliganj with
  - (a) P.S. Mekliganj and
  - (b) P.S. Haldibari.

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[Top of Page](#)

[Administrative Activities](#) | [Administrative Blocks](#) | [Administrative Departments](#) | [Administrative Diary](#) | [Administrative Forms](#) |  
[Administrative Orders](#) | [Administrative Schemes](#) | [Administrative Tenders](#) | [Agriculture](#) | [Brief History](#) | [Bus Service](#) | [Climate](#) |  
[Crop pattern](#) | [Culture-n-Tradition](#) | [Demography](#) | [Education](#) | [Employment](#) | [Fairs-n-Festivals](#) | [Geography](#) | [Haats](#) or [Local Market](#) |  
[Health](#) | [Industry/Economy](#) | [Industrial Scope](#) | [IT Awareness in CoB](#) | [Land Data Bank](#) | [Local Administration](#) |  
[Physical Infrastructure](#) | [Public Utility Information](#) | [Royal History](#) | [Social Infrastructure](#) | [Tourism - a Snapshot](#) | [Tourist Guide](#) |  
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